

Tyson brawls at Marriott

By Patrick Gallaue
and Neil Sloane
with Associated Press reports

Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was released from the 84th Precinct Downtown Saturday afternoon, 11 hours after his arrest on assault charges stemming from a brawl with two men outside the Marriott hotel on Adams Street.

Tyson was charged with assault in the third degree, a misdemeanor. He walked silently past

reporters standing in a driving rain outside the Gold Street precinct, which is just blocks from Gleason's Gym, where Tyson pounded bags and sparring partners in his prime.

Fans of the boxer shouted, "Mike! Mike!" as he was led out by police.

But it wasn't the first time Tyson lost his temper outside the New York Marriott Brooklyn. Brooklyn Papers photographer Tom Callan narrowly escaped a beating at the hands of the raging ex-champ when he tried to photograph him outside the hotel on



Boxer Mike Tyson leaves the 84th Precinct Saturday afternoon.

Aug. 28, 1998.

The account was reported by Andrea Peyser in the Sept. 30, 1998 New York Post. Covering an awards ceremony

for The Papers that night, Callan was informed that Tyson was downstairs in the hotel. He noticed Tyson talking to another

See **TYSON** on page 11

BRIDGE PLOT FOILED

Ohio trucker from Kashmir plotted to KO the span

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—An Ohio truck driver who emigrated to the United States from Kashmir and met Osama bin Laden has admitted plotting to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge, federal authorities said this week.

Imyan Faris, 34, of Columbus, acknowledged in court documents that he met bin Laden in 2000 at an al-Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan and provided operatives



Imyan Faris, 34, of Columbus, Ohio, a truck driver who met Osama bin Laden and surveyed the Brooklyn Bridge in hopes of destroying it.

there with sleeping bags, cell phones and other assistance.

Later, authorities said, Faris received attack instructions from top terror leader Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who is in U.S. custody overseas and has provided U.S. interrogators with valuable intelligence about the terror group's worldwide reach.

Those instructions, authorities believe, might have been a second wave planned for New York City and Washington to follow the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"This case highlights the very real threats that still exist here at home in the United States of America in the war against terrorism," Attorney General John Ashcroft said.

See **BRIDGE** on page 8

INSIDE

GO BROOKLYN

New places to nosh

The Brooklyn Paper

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Sunday meters dropped from 4 Slope blocks

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

The city Department of Transportation is restoring free Sunday parking to four blocks in Park Slope.

The restoration came a little over a month after Councilman David Yassky protested the imposition of Sunday parking fees on those streets in a letter to the DOT dated May 21.

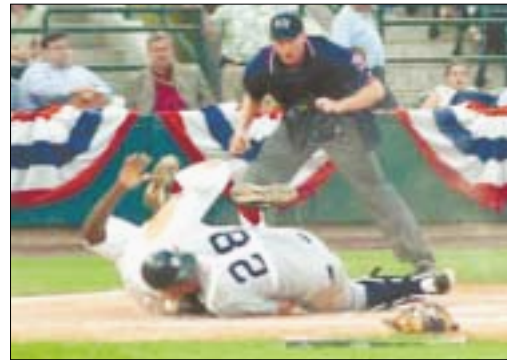
A Yassky spokesman said the change would be made by the end of the summer on these blocks:

Plaza Street East between Flatbush and Vanderbilt avenues; St. Johns Place between Seventh and Eighth avenues; Eighth Avenue between St. Johns Place and Lincoln Place; and Eighth Avenue between Lincoln Place and Berkeley Place.

Yassky also had Sunday metered parking pulled from six streets in Brooklyn Heights last month.

In this fiscal year, the Sunday meters were estimated to collect an extra \$1 million, while in the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, it is anticipated they will raise an additional \$3.5 million.

"I think people in general are annoyed that there's metered parking on Sundays anywhere," said Bernie Graham, president of the Park Slope Civic Council. "So that's a step in the right direction to allow the residential streets to have free parking on Sundays. I think there are a lot of people that would like to see it expanded to free parking on Sundays throughout the city."



Brooklyn Cyclone Derran Watts mows down Staten Island Yankees catcher Luis Robles during home opener at Keyspan Park Monday night. For complete Cyclones coverage, see page 2.

Safe at home

110 Livingston to be housing

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

The head of the City Economic Development Corporation announced this week that the former Board of Education building at 110 Livingston St. would be converted to housing.

While speaking of Downtown Brooklyn's future at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's "Building Brooklyn Awards," EDC President Andrew Alper said of 110 Livingston St., "The building will most likely go as residential."

Alper added that an announcement could come by the end of this month.

After the meeting, an EDC spokesman would not confirm whether a developer had been chosen yet or if it was down to a shortlist of candidates for the request for proposals (RFP) the agency issued earlier this year for the building. The spokesman also would not say if the building would include retail.

When Mayor Michael Bloomberg first announced his intention to sell the building, he suggested a "mixed-use" development, with retail and academic uses on the lower floors and 250 upper-level apartments.

Borough President Marty Markowitz, who expressed concern about the jobs that would be lost with the relocation of the Board of Education — now called the Department of Education — to the Tweed Courthouse in Manhattan, said of the building's conversion to housing, "The market rules and I'm still hopeful that when the board's committee is in, it will be mixed use."

The building is currently surrounded by HOUSING on page 8

Windsor truck horrors

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

Windsor Terrace residents stood up and recounted one horror story after another at a town hall meeting Tuesday night, telling how trucks are illegally charging through their neighborhood and trampling over their quality of life.

Joe Perretti, of 19th Street between Seelye and Vanderbilt streets, said he's been frequently jolted awake in the middle of the night by trucks that get stuck on his block, forcing residents to move their cars or risk getting hit.

"If we don't come out and get our cars out of the way there will be guys that go through them," Perretti said.

Just ask Madeline Jean, of Seelye St. at 18th Street. She said her 1988 Mercury Sable was "crushed like an accordion" by a speeding Atlantic City-bound bus six years ago. Lisa Mayniz-Ridley, a resident of Caton Avenue between East Fourth and East Fifth streets, said she stood outside her house and watched foundation-rattling semis blaze past at a rate of one per minute.

See **TRUCKS** on page 8



Harry Potter fans turned out in droves in Brooklyn Heights on June 20 as the witching hour drew near. The new book by J.K. Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," went on sale at midnight. Patrons at the Court Street Barnes & Noble were entertained by Justin Connors, aka Justin the Magician (above), while they waited. Tyearek Hopkins, 11, (at left) was the first to buy the book there.

Magic of Potter returns again

Harry Potter fans turned out in droves in Brooklyn Heights on June 20 as the witching hour drew near. The new book by J.K. Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," went on sale at midnight. Patrons at the Court Street Barnes & Noble were entertained by Justin Connors, aka Justin the Magician (above), while they waited. Tyearek Hopkins, 11, (at left) was the first to buy the book there.

Willie Bridge's day in the sun

By Justin Gianville
Associated Press

It was the Williamsburg Bridge's turn to shine — if only for a moment.

Long considered the scrappy younger sibling of the famous Brooklyn Bridge to the south, the bridge celebrated its 100th anniversary Sunday. Festivities included performances by local bands and a 10-foot-high, bridge-shaped cake.

"A lot of people think the Willy-B isn't very good looking," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg, using the bridge's nickname as he addressed the crowd. "Let's just say it's very utilitarian."

chants of "Save our firehouses."

They waited until the mayor or left the temporary stage and made his way toward a cake resembling the bridge, then began to shout at him again.

After posing for pictures in front of the cake, Bloomberg left and continued cavalcading.

Despite the protests, the event drew celebrants from both Manhattan's Lower East Side and Brooklyn's Williamsburg, two neighborhoods that have been points of arrival for millions of newcomers to the city.

"Everybody in Williamsburg loves this bridge," said Pete Gelling, 24, who edits a neighborhood magazine and lives in Williamsburg. "It's part of the community, part of the landscape."

Barbara and Howard Lass, a retired couple who recently celebrated their 44th anniversary, both grew up in Williamsburg and met there. They now live in Coney Island, but have fond memories of the bridge.



Fair days

The weather didn't break until Monday, but despite some inclement conditions, Rachel Tutsutsumi (inset) came out for corn on the cob at Sunday's Smith Street Fair. Of course, rain does not affect mermaids like Kate Dale, who rides a float down the Boardwalk on Saturday, during the annual Mermaid Parade in Coney Island.

Borough Hall toast for new Maimonides chief

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

Elected officials and community leaders gathered at Borough Hall Monday to usher Pamela Brier in as the new head of Maimonides Medical Center in Borough Park.

Maimonides is not my hospital. Maimonides is an extraordinary hospital that, I hope, is the heart and soul of making people well," said Brier, who is married to Peter Aschkenasy, a Brooklyn arts activist and former owner of Downtown Brooklyn's Gage & Toller restaurant.

Stanley Brezenoff stepped down as president and CEO of Maimonides in May after accepting an offer to take over as CEO of Continuum Health Partners, a group of health-care facilities including Long Island College Hospital and Beth Israel Medical Center.



New Maimonides chief Pamela Brier and her husband, Peter Aschkenasy, flank former Mayor Ed Koch Monday.

Brier held myriad appointments related to public health

policy under mayors Michael Bloomberg, Rudolph Giuliani and Ed Koch, as well as under former Gov. Mario Cuomo. From 1992 to 1995, she served as executive director of Bellevue Hospital and senior vice president of the Southern Manhattan-Northern Brooklyn Network of Hospitals at the time she oversaw the management of a \$2 billion multi-hospital system.

Cyclones sweep fer series

By Vince DiMiceli
The Brooklyn Papers

Either they're really bad, or the Cyclones are really good.

The Brooklyn ended their first week of play with a three-game sweep of the cross-harrows rival Staten Island Yankees, taking Sunday's game on Staten Island 4-3. Monday's home opener 7-4, and Tuesday's contest on Staten Island 5-3.

After beating the Baby Bombers in Sunday's rain-soaked pairing thanks to a Seth Pietsch home run, the Cyclones were fortunate enough to open up Keyspan Park for the summer with a summer-like evening Monday night.

With Mayor Mike Bloomberg on hand to throw out the first pitch to Borough President Marty Markowitz, the Clones put on a great show for the Brooklyn faithful, along with former (and original)

Met Ed Kranepool and a slew of youth-thinking Mets executives, including Fred Wilpon and new General Manager Jim Duquette.

Right-hander Bob Keppell, who pitched five perfect innings for Brooklyn on opening night in Aberdeen last week, lost any hope of remaining perfect with the Cyclones when the first pitch he threw was grounded back through the box for a base hit by Melky Cabrera. But the pitcher, who started the season in double-A Binghamton and is working his way back from a right forearm strain, quickly settled down, inducing Alexander Santa to ground into a double play before getting Hector Zamora to ground to short.

Keppell went on to throw six innings of one-run ball, striking out three in the process.

The Cyclones offense, meanwhile, wasn't faring so well until the third when shoddy Yankee defense turned a 1-



Bob Keppell fires a strike Monday night at Keyspan Park.

0 lead into a 3-1 deficit. Singles by Ian Bladergroen and by Stacy Bennett with two outs, drove in two of the Brooklyn runs after three men reached by way of the misplay.

The Clones took on three more runs in the seventh and added a single run in the eighth to ensure that the crowd of 8,539 went home happy.

Tuesday night put the Clones back on Staten Island where lead-off hitter and center fielder Rashad Parker went 4-for-4 with a double, three singles, two runs scored and two RBIs.

Parker played a part in four of the Clones' five runs, doubling and scoring on a David Reaver single in the first, singling in Jesus Linares before scoring in the third, and driving in Corey Coles in the eighth. Starting pitcher Tamer Oberg threw well enough to earn a no-decision, giving up three runs over six innings, but leaving the score tied. He did, however, breeze

through the second through fifth innings, giving up just two hits during that span.

Tim Worthington and Javier Ochoa pitched one scoreless inning apiece before Robert Paulk closed things out in the ninth for the save. Ochoa was credited with the win.

The victories put the Cyclones at 5-1 on the season. The Yankees, meanwhile, fell to 1-6.

Ups and downs

The Cyclones took Thursday's game in Aberdeen 6-0. Games scheduled for Friday and Saturday against the New Jersey Cardinals were rained out.

Good call?

Staten Island Yankees catcher Luis Robles seemed shocked Monday night after being plowed down during a play at home plate, and it wasn't because he took a nasty blow to the head when he was knocked down by Cyclone Derran Watts.

The ball clearly beat Watts to home, but the umpire ruled that Robles bobbled the ball after impact. He immediately made an emphatic safe sign.

This upset not only Robles, but former New York Yankee sparkplug and present Staten Island Yankees manager Andy Staniewicz, who raced out to argue the call.

While he was doing so, we checked the replay, which did, in fact, show that Robles bobbled the ball. Still, the umpire's call seemed a bit premature, as Watts never seemed to touch home plate, instead flying head-first over it as he tackled the catcher. The umpire should have waited for another tag by the catcher, or for Watts to touch the plate before making the safe call.

No doubles!

Everyone knows that, due to an ever-present ocean breeze, it's virtually impossible to hit a ball over Keyspan Park's right field fence, but that doesn't mean you can't hit it to the warning track.

That's what happened Monday night when, in the ninth inning, with the Clones up by three and two runners on, lead-off hitter Melky Cabrera stepped to the plate.

With one swing of the bat, the Brooklyn faithful held their collective breath as both wind and right fielder Seth Pietsch, who was playing a bit shallow, tried to keep the ball in the park.

As usual, the wind prevailed, and Pietsch spun around just in time — after charging as fast as he could to the warning track — to make the catch, ending the threat and the game.

"Had it all the way," said Pietsch, who hit an opposite-field, two-run homer to right Sunday on Staten Island, where the Yankees are a bit more forgiving.

"He better have had it all the way. I just put the sign up for no doubles," said Cyclones manager Tim Teufel, waving his hand over his head to demonstrate. "We'll be talking about that with him later."

Notably, Pietsch was the designated hitter the following night in Staten Island.

A bat, man

Over the past few years on Staten Island, a group of wild turkeys have found a home on a field near Midland Beach, and at least one deer made its home on the West Shore, where a senior citizen there admitted to feeding it a few meals.

Add to that the numerous raccoons and opossums that call the island home, and you wouldn't think the site of a winged mammal would shock people.

Still, a live bat flew by the press box late Tuesday night, inspiring the following conversation:

Me: Wow! That's a bat flying by here.

Official Score: Yeah, you're right, that is a bat.

Me: That would suck if it got in here.

Official Score: No it wouldn't. It's not a vampire bat.

Well, I embellished a little. But here's hoping the little critters are simply helping control the mosquito population, which is probably the case. At last check, no Cyclone or Staten Island Yankee comes from Transylvania.

Willie's Kid

Former Yankees second baseman and present third base coach Willie Randolph's son, Andre, started as DH on Tuesday for the Yanks.

Batting last, the 5-foot-6, lefty-hitting Randolph got his first professional hit with a single to right in the seventh.

To find out The Brooklyn Papers pick for Player of the Week, click on "Who's A Bum" at www.BrooklynPapers.com

When will a Clone make it big?

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

With the major league Mets struggling and sporting an infield that's three-quarters rookies (all from the Mets' farm system) — Ty Wigginton at third, Jose Reyes at short and Jason Phillips at first — will the parent Mets be calling up more players from their farm system, possibly some former Brooklyn Cyclones?

Have any Cyclones made the majors yet? Well, yes and no.

In 2001, outfielder Toyohshi Shinjo made a two game Cyclone "guest appearance," on injury rehab, against the Staten Island Yankees. Shinjo was quickly recalled back to the Mets.

Mets' pitcher Tom Martin made an appearance on injury rehab for the Cyclones in 2001 and later pitched for the Mets.

But the first "long-term" Cyclone to become a major



Alhaji Turay



John Toner



Joe Jannetti

league was from Marine Park — trainer Mike Herbst, who moved from the 2001 Cyclones to the 2001 Mets as the assistant trainer.

Last year, Joe McEwing, the Mets' utility man, played briefly for the Cyclones on an injury rehab and then quickly rejoined the major league club.

And here's the "no" answers: Everybody else.

Prior to this year, 87 players appeared for the Brooklyn Cyclones, and not counting the rehabbing Mets, not one has

played in the majors.

From David Abreu to Joel Zaragoza, the alphabetical gamut runs dry. But this is really not so surprising. Here's why.

The Mets have six U.S. farm clubs, plus farm teams in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. The foreign teams mainly field young players from those countries.

The six U.S. teams in the Mets' farm system start with Kingsport, which is termed a "short-season rookie team."

Players from the Mets' farm teams in the Dominican Republic and in Venezuela hope to move up to Kingsport, Tenn., the lowest rung on the United States ladder. High school players and players from smaller college programs often start their Met careers at Kingsport.

Brooklyn is the next rung on the ladder, and is considered a "short-season A team."

Brooklyn players are often draft picks just out of college and players who have moved up from Kingsport.

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The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Who's on first? Bladergroen, naturally

When Bud Abbott and Lou Costello did their famous "Who's On First?" routine, they used several different versions. They would tailor their skit for different forums — having five, seven and nine-minute versions — and, with various ad libs, the piece almost never came out the same way twice.

Poor Costello was always frustrated and confused by Abbott's answers to his questions.

How could Costello know that Abbott's team had strange names? He was a first baseman named "Who," a second baseman named "What" and a third baseman named "I Don't Know?"

To try to prevent Brooklyn Cyclones fans from suffering the same frustration as the lovable Costello (who was born in New Jersey, but might as well have come from Brooklyn), let's find out Who's On First for this year's squad.

Who's on first?

The answer is Ian Bladergroen. The name has a Dutch heritage, and it's pronounced "blade-er-grown." He's a 6-foot-5 left-handed batter and thrower. At Lamar Community College in 2003, he hit 32 home runs. He was drafted as a "draft and follow" in 2002, which means that the Mets kept his rights for a year and he signed this spring.

Cyclones batting coach Roger LaFrancois says that Bladergroen is a Jon Olstad-type player, referring to the former Mets first baseman known for his great patience at the plate and excellent glove.

Bladergroen's great uncle, a retired New York City police officer, still lives in Brooklyn.

What's on second?

His name is David Housel, and he's from Lou Costello's home state. But Housel looks like the skinny Abbott, as David stretches only 165 pounds out of a 6-foot-2 frame. After two years at Kingsport, the switch-hitter is off to a good start at the plate and in the field. Housel has decided to forego commuting from his Chester, N.J. home and will stay with the other Cyclones at Brooklyn's Polytechnic University dorm.

I don't know? He's on third.

Now you do know third base, he's Shawn Bowman, a Canadian who played two years for the Canadian Junior National Team (18 years old and under). Still only 18 years old, Bowman says about playing baseball, "I like to get dirty, and I love playing before a crowd."

With that attitude, he seems made for Brooklyn.

I don't give a damn

That was the name of Abbott's shortstop (with "damn" being replaced with "damn" for a younger crowd), but David Reaver is playing there for Brooklyn, and he cares very much. He was the Mets' 10th-round pick in the 2003 draft. Out of the University of Richmond, he was a USA Today second team All-American. In early season games he was playing a fine shortstop, stealing bases and hitting over .400.

Other infielders include Travis Garcia, the Mets' 21st-round pick this year. Garcia is a right-hitting middle infielder who grew up in the Bronx. Jesus Linares is a switch-hitting infielder who played last year at Kingsport, where he hit .254.

Why and Because

How about the outfield? Abbott's team had Why playing in left field and Because in center, but they didn't name a right fielder. The Cyclones fill all three spots.

The Cyclones have been using Rashad Parker in left and center and the right-handed batter usually leads off games by coming in from the outfield to pitch. Coles has a fine arm and will concentrate on the outfield with Bladergroen.

Seth Pietsch, pronounced "peach," has been christened "The Oregon Pietsch" by announcer Warner Fassel — a play on Ty Cobb's nickname and Pietsch's home state.

Pietsch, who says his biggest baseball thrill is watching the ball sail over the fence, managed to efface just when the right-handed batter hit the first pitch that he ever saw for a home run against Aberdeen. He runs well, stands only 5-foot-9, but has arms of steel.

Darren Watts played in 10 games for the 2002 Cyclones, hitting .154; he hit .257 for Kingsport and tied for fifth in stolen bases in the Appalachian League. According to LaFrancois, "He's in Brooklyn to close his stance, shorten his swing, and use the whole field."

The Cyclones have an outfielder from Southern California who wears No. 4. The right-handed batter hit .411 with nine home runs and 40 RBIs for University of California-Riverside in 2003.

Today and Next Week?

Today was the name of Abbott's catcher. The Cyclones have four "Today's."

Stacey Bennett catches and plays third base. The left-handed hitter was the Mets 14th-round choice in the 2003 draft.

Zac Clements played six games with last year's Cyclones, and played 16 games with Kingsport, with the right-handed batter hitting .282.

Yunior "Junior" Garcia hit .233 for Kingsport in 2002. A fine receiver, he's only 20 years old.

Piazza is going to do some catching for the 2003 Cyclones, but the first Piazza to play for Brooklyn will be Anthony Piazza, not Mike. They are not related by blood, but they are sure to be connected by comments about having the same last name. Out of Southwest Missouri State, the right-handed hitting Piazza hit .302 this season with a team-leading 15 home runs and 55 RBIs. He led the team to their first appearance in the College World Series. These are the field players for Brooklyn. What about the pitchers, you ask?

When Costello said to Abbott, "Tell me who's pitching," Abbott replied, "Tannerow."

Costello plaintively asked, "You're not going to tell me to day?"

So that's what we'll do. We'll tell you about the pitchers tomorrow. (Well, actually, we'll tell you next week.)

Ed Shakespeare's book about the Cyclones, "When Baseball Returned To Brooklyn" is available at Amazon.com. There is a direct link to the Web site at www.BrooklynPapers.com.

Shoe bandit just walks away

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

A thief walked into a home on Grace Court Alley at Hicks Street on June 20 and walked out with 12 pairs of shoes.

The victim, 41, was having the front door replaced and had a plastic covering over the entrance. The thief removed the tarp, sometime between 1 pm and 1:30 pm, and raided the victim's wardrobe of what was valued at \$1,800 worth of footwear.

Willow attack

A 22-year-old man was thrown to the ground on Willow Street by a posse of patriotically capped men who robbed him of \$5 and his CD player.

The victim said the three-man gang grabbed him at 12:30 am, on June 20, between

POLICE BLOTTER

Clark and Pierpont streets.

After knocking him down and taking his cash and Walkman, the three fled.

The victim got a clear look at two of the men, were wearing red, white and blue baseball caps as well as basketball jerseys and rubber gloves. One of the men was described as a male Hispanic, about 5-foot-8 and 150 pounds. Another was said to be about 5-foot-7 and 140 pounds.

Bubbye Benz

Consider it an anecdotal study, but as one man learned this week, if you leave a Mercedes-Benz unattended with

keys in the ignition, someone will take it.

A 57-year-old man left his 1996 Mercedes-Benz running for 10 minutes, at 10:30 pm on June 15, while he ran into a building on Schermerhorn Street between Court Street and Boerum Place. When he returned the vehicle was gone.

Car taken

A 56-year-old man's car was stolen from its parking space on

State Street just off Clinton Street while he was visiting his attorney.

The victim said he parked his car on June 17 at around 7:45 am. When he returned to the car an hour later, it was gone.

Brazen burglar

He went in through a window but out through the door.

A woman awoke at 1 am on June 20 in her apartment on Reussen Street, between Henry and Clinton streets, to find her living room and a burglar in her window open.

The victim said the thief

was holding her purse, containing \$60, credit cards and makeup. When the prowler realized he'd been spotted, he fled the apartment through the front door.

'Hand it over'

A duplicitous thief attempted to commandeer a car waiting on Joralemon Street, between Court Street and Fulton Mall on June 17, claiming to be a police officer.

The victim, 45, told police the poseur approached him shortly before 2 pm and said, "I'm going to take this car." His request was rebuffed and police were called.

A 28-year-old suspect was taken into custody and charged with attempted grand larceny.

Finger-lickin' bad

A burglar plucked his way into a fried chicken restaurant on Nevins Street at Livingston Street.

According to police, the burglar pried open the front gate and then smashed a window to get into the store sometime between 9 pm on June 16 and 7 am the following day.

The burglar then destroyed the cash register to access its contents, which amounted to \$50.

Aitken break-in

A 35-year-old man was watching television in his home on Aitken Place at Sidney Place, shortly before 2 am on June 16, when he heard a burglar break in through a second-floor window.

Neighbors also reported hearing rustling but when they went to inspect the scene the prowler had already fled through the basement.

Nothing was reported stolen.

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An Overview of Epilepsy - Dr. Yungala
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Pregnancy and Epilepsy - Dr. Valsamis
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Rent deal ripped as 'sellout'

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

New Yorkers living in rent-stabilized apartments waited anxiously this week as legislators in Albany duked it out over the fate of rent regulations.

But while renters in the city's more than 1 million rent-regulated apartments heaved a collective sigh of relief on Friday that the laws were extended, affordable housing advocates were left fuming.

The Republican-led state Senate passed an eight-year extension to the current laws late Thursday night and then headed home for the summer leaving the Democrat-led Assembly to pass the same bill or allow the rent laws to lapse.

At the center of the controversy was the issue of "vacancy decontrol," a rule that allows landlords to destabilize vacant apartments once rents hit \$2,000.

The rent regulation issue came to a head in Bay Ridge two weeks ago when a crowd of mostly senior citizens gathered around the offices of state Sen. Marty Golden urging him to sign on to a bill that would extend the rent laws and eliminate vacancy decontrol.

While Golden, whose district extends from Bay Ridge to Midtown East, told the first-up crowd he would sign on to whatever bill came up for a vote, he instead buckled state Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno last week and voted against the bill.

Golden told The Brooklyn Papers this week that he cast his vote against the legislation because the laws were not strong enough. Despite his vow last week to vote for any legislation that would extend the rent laws — short of one that would lower the decontrol limit — Golden said after his "no" vote that he wanted the decontrol bar raised to around \$2,500.

"I voted with Democrats who fought to continue to have rent controlled," said Golden, one of six Republican state Senators in New York City.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a Democrat representing



BREAKING GROUND: Members of the Fifth Avenue Committee, joined by business leaders and politicians, at the ground-breaking ceremony for their new headquarters at Fourth Avenue and Degraw Street Thursday.

Lower Manhattan, has been an outspoken advocate of eliminating vacancy decontrol altogether. Bruno, who incensed Silver six years ago by suggesting an end to the rent laws, tempered his message this go-around advocating instead for maintaining the status quo.

"In the middle of the night, Bruno put in a weakened bill extending the law for eight years," said Brian Honan, a Bay Ridge activist and legislative director for Tenants and Neighbors, a statewide advocacy organization that was behind the June 7 protest outside Golden's office, on Fifth Avenue at 74th Street.

"It was a real attack on affordable housing," Honan said of the extension, adding that a shorter extension would have been preferable because of the vacancy decontrol issue.

According to Honan, about 300,000 apartments could be taken off rent regulations before the laws come up again in 2011.

Asked about Golden's vote against the bill, Honan said it was too little, too late. "Marty [Golden] could have been very helpful and it was disappointing that he wasn't ... Marty was

afraid of Bruno and real estate interests," Honan charged.

In another blow to rent-regulated tenants, the Rent Guidelines Board agreed on Thursday to raise rents by 4.5 percent on one-year leases and 7.5 percent on two-year leases. The rent increase is the steepest in the last decade.

Borough President Marty Markowitz also stood up this week to criticize the rent regulation extension calling it a "slap in the face" to Brooklyn tenants.

"Brooklyn is in dire need of more, not less, affordable housing," Markowitz said. "This is

about preserving affordable housing and neighborhoods for moderate- and middle-class New Yorkers, who already have very few options left in the city. New York is on the road to becoming home to the very rich and the very poor, which would be devastating for Brooklyn or the rest of the city."

With the new rent increases, some advocates fear that even more apartments will become deregulated and refuted Golden's previous claim that vacancy decontrol issue is more of an issue for Manhattan residents.

"It's a misconception if the Republicans are saying tenants paying \$2,000 shouldn't get any rent protection," said Gentile.

The \$2,000 figure is based on what landlords can legally charge, not what they actually charge.

By spending money on improvements to their buildings and individual apartments, landlords are often able to raise the rent of stabilized apartments above the \$2,000 mark, Gentile said.

Martha Marquez, a tenant organizer for the Fifth Avenue Committee, in Park Slope, said many rent-stabilized apartments will be turned over in her neighborhood.

"A lot of landlords make major capital improvements, sometimes they are needed ... but sometimes they use it as a tactic to raise rent," said Marquez, adding that many tenants have contacted the office to find out how the new laws and rent increases will affect them.

"I tell them to do the math," said Marquez.

Vicki Negron, vice president of Corcoran Group Brooklyn, the largest residential Realtor in Brooklyn, said this week that the new rent increases, in tandem with the rent regulations, could catapult more renters in Brownstone Brooklyn to look to buy, which would hurt landlords more than help them.

"Renters would be reluctant to commit to rents when there's no ceiling and no end in site," said Negron. "And that's what's happening now."



Holding up a sign requesting that car and truck drivers "don't honk" is Meg Canby (left) with June McBarron and her son George, as truck goes by on Dean Street.

'Trucks ruining Dean St'

Residents rail that children, homes are in peril

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Eliza Vasquez blames them for the cracked plaster on her living room walls.

It's because of them that Olivia Pi-Sunyer worries about the safety of her two young children while trying to make wide turns on Dean Street from Fourth Avenue.

And Jim Kemper says that they've smashed into streetlights, signs and parking meters while trying to make wide turns on Dean Street from Fourth Avenue.

Vasquez, Pi-Sunyer and Kemper all live on a stretch of Dean Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, which, they say, has been overrun by the menaces of which they speak — tractor trailers, 18-wheelers and delivery trucks gone wild.

But the "Rumble in Brooklyn," as Vasquez bills the conflict, has continued to shake the nar-

row residential street, despite a block campaign to quell the noise and recent changes in traffic flow on nearby Atlantic Avenue.

"It's almost an all-day thing. And when you don't have the truck traffic, you have all this," said Vasquez, mentioning ongoing automobile traffic and a gaggle of construction workers banging away on a new apartment complex. "People have found an easier route this way, or they're just used to our street by now. This is constant."

The problem began in 2001, after construction at the Atlantic Avenue subway hub at Flatbush Avenue clogged traffic on Atlantic Avenue and barred right turns on the street, a major truck route. The changes forced truck drivers heading north on Fourth Avenue to turn, instead, onto Dean Street.

But despite a reinstatement of right turns on Atlantic Avenue, the conflict has continued to shake the nar-

See TRUCKS on page 4

POLICE BLOTTER

Daffy duo robs store

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

About the only thing a pair of bungling midday bandits pulled off was getting one of them caught.

Police said the two robbers entered a grocery store on Fourth Avenue, between Butler and Douglass streets, at 2:25 pm on June 18 and ordered everyone in the store to the floor.

One of the thugs had a shirt wrapped around his face, which one could surmise was intended to be a mask. But judging by the brazen power he exhibited during the attempted robbery, it may have been the result of his inability to figure out the sleeves.

After binding the three victims, including a 12-year-old boy, with duct tape, the ill-clad thief unsuccessfully attempted to open the cash register. Frustrated by his own failures, he ordered an employee to help him. Then, when his accomplice told him to go to the back of the store and load up on cigarettes and cash, the wayward thief apparently got lost.

"There are so many rooms here," witnesses said the thief shouted from the rear of the store. The daffy duo did manage to collect \$161, cigarettes and a licensed 9-mm. Lager before deciding to flee, according to police.

The thugs' final and fatal indignity, however, occurred because a 26-year-old victim managed to slip out of his sticky shackles and chase the men to

Butler Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, where one suspect was too slow to get away.

A 35-year-old man was arrested and charged with robbery.

Looked away

A woman using a public pay phone at the Seventh Avenue F-train station on Ninth Street had her wallet stolen.

The victim, 33, told police she placed her wallet atop the telephone kiosk at 6:30 pm on June 21 and turned away for only a few minutes. When she looked back the wallet was gone along, she told police, with \$350, her credit cards and a \$6,500 check.

ATM follow

As if rehearsed, two muggers robbed a man on Garfield Place between Fluke and Eighth Avenue at 6:30 pm on June 21, confronting him with the line, "You know the drill."

The pair stole \$15 from the 51-year-old victim, who had been on his way home from the grocery store. The victim told police he had stopped at an ATM machine on the way and the thugs followed him to the side street.

Face punch

A mugger attacked a 38-year-old man on Seventh Avenue, between Fifth and Sixth streets, at midnight on June 18.

The mugger punched the victim in the face. "Give me your money," he demanded. He then grabbed \$45 and took off on Sixth Street.

Cyber thief

A cyber-crook allegedly obtained a woman's Visa card number and spent \$5,205 in a seedy Internet shopping spree.

The victim, 54, discovered the illicit charges at midnight on June 15 and took her complaint to the 78th Precinct. Police have determined the charges were made in the Washington, D.C. area.

Company loss

A 57-year-old man's company car disappeared from a parking lot on Nevins Street just off President Street, sometime between 9 pm on June 16 and 7:30 am the following day.

Bar tab

A thief allegedly lifted a man's wallet at a bar on Fourth Avenue between Bergen Street and Saint Marks Place and then ran up a \$2,000 tab.

The victim, 33, told police he was out with friends on June 17 and placed his wallet on a table at around 11 pm. The wallet vanished. When he reported it stolen, the thief had already charged \$2,000 to his credit cards.

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Army Terminal van to bring workers safely to businesses

By Deborah Kolben
 The Brooklyn Papers

The problem for employers along Sunset Park's waterfront is not finding workers, but rather getting them there. The night and early morning shifts can be the most problematic, with public transportation running infrequently. The nearest subway is 15 minutes away and the walk through the deserted streets past warehouses and underneath the Gowanus Expressway can be especially intimidating in the dark. But thanks to a new, free van service that will shuttle workers from the subway to various businesses in the area between 7 pm and 9 am, that trip might get a bit easier. The Ride-to-Work program was officially launched in a ceremony in front of the Brooklyn Army Terminal, at 58th Street and First Avenue, which houses

dozens of companies that employ more than 3,000. The van, a joint effort of Sedco, a non-profit organization that works with community groups to revitalize low-income areas, and the Southwestern Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation, is funded through a grant from the Federal Transportation Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and will be available to the roughly 25,000 workers along Sunset Park's waterfront. Organizers expect nearly 500 workers in the area to take advantage of the new vans. "We need a good way to get workers here," said Abraham Rosenberg, a chocolate manufacturer at First Avenue and 48th Street who employs 15 workers. The lack of good transportation causes employees to come in late and that hurts business, according to Rosenberg, who said his employees hail from as far as the Bronx and Queens. The new shuttle service will pick workers up at the N, R, M and W subway station at 36th Street and Fourth Avenue and drop them off along First and Second avenues between 39th and 58th streets. The service, contracted by the Greenpoint-based Royal Lines Inc., will be free for the first six months and then there will be an undetermined fee that organizers described as "nominal" thereafter. Attracted by the cheap rent, expansive space and easy access to the highway, industrial and commercial businesses started moving into the terminal in the 1980s after the city completed a major renovation. The facility now houses a range of businesses including printers, clothing manufactur-

ers, computer companies, and cell phone distributors. The terminal was designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert, who also created the Woolworth Building in Lower Manhattan. During World War II, the Army Terminal processed nearly 80 percent of U.S. supplies and troops for the war effort, employing 10,000 civilians. The thriving waterfront business in Sunset Park declined over the years and the Brooklyn Army Terminal was deactivated in the 1970s. The terminal is run today by the city Economic Development Corporation. A plaque inside the terminal boasts a picture of Elvis Presley and details his pass through the terminal when he traveled from Memphis to Brooklyn after he enlisted in the Army in 1958. While many of the business owners at last month's launch ceremony were pleased about the new van service, Michael Isaacs, president of the U.S. Balloon Company, said the van would better serve his 100 employees if it also picked up at the 59th Street subway stop to service workers coming from Coney Island and other parts of southern Brooklyn. With business expanding at the Brooklyn Army Terminal, Isaacs said the loss of the free ferry from the 58th Street Pier to Wall Street made it difficult to attract middle management employees from Manhattan. The ferry was taken over by New York Water Taxi after the federal government stopped funding the free service put in place after the attacks on the World Trade Center. The ferry now costs \$5 each way. Looking to connect low-wage workers with available jobs, Sedco President William

Grinkler said the Sunset Park van could be a model for the future. "Our strategy is to better meet the needs of workers and employers by linking workers to jobs through effective transportation services," he said. "If our program works along the Brooklyn waterfront, we have the resources to expand it to other areas with a concentration of jobs that low-wage workers may have difficulty accessing."

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TRUCKS...

Continued from page 3

lantic Avenue from Fourth Avenue two months ago, the problems have only gotten worse. Pi-Sunyer, 35, said that the lion's share of truck traffic comes in the morning, before 9 am, and later in the afternoon. "Right when the kids are coming in and out of school," she said, emphasizing the danger. Kempster, a Web developer for the Brooklyn Law School in Downtown Brooklyn, says that from his corner apartment at 374 Dean St. he can see oversized trucks try, unsuccessfully, to turn onto the street. More than once, he says, he's watched them barrel over light poles and parking meters. Some are so large that they have to back up and abort the mission altogether. "They round that corner, and they don't see the number of other trucks that have attempted to make that same turn," said Kempster, who has lived there since 1995. "The traffic light gets knocked down twice a year. It's just lame." Vasquez claims that the spindly cracks on her living room walls, which she pointed out for The Brooklyn Papers, are the result of two years of truck traffic on a street never meant to be traversed by 18-wheelers. Others on the street claim that trucks are to blame for a spate of recent water main breaks. Timothy Logan, a member of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, an organization that fights disparate impacts in low-income communities, says that a plumber inspected a leak in his home at 401 Dean St. and came to the same conclusion. "I mean, what else could it be? They all happened at the same time," says Logan. The Dean Street Block Association has contacted local politicians, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Department of Transportation for answers, but residents have found little assistance. "They never told us how they were going to relieve a little pressure from us," said Vasquez, who is vice president of the block association and owns her home at 386 Dean St. According to MTA spokesman James Anyans, construction on three elevators at the Pacific Street subway station began underground in early 2000, but in 2001 the renovations spread to Atlantic Avenue, closing several lanes of traffic. Anyans said the project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. "As time goes on, we've eased some of the pressure," he said. Recently, however, community leaders say a light can be seen at the end of the street — and it isn't from the front of a semi. Last Tuesday, the first in a series of citywide meetings was held at the City College of New York, in Manhattan, to determine the impact of truck traffic on neighborhoods. The DOT is using these forums, which will be conducted in all five boroughs, to help fuel a yearlong,

\$845,000 study aimed at finding solutions to the problem. A similar meeting in Brooklyn is scheduled for July 15 at Borough Hall, on Joralemon Street at Court Street. Meanwhile, a new bill that passed both houses of the state Legislature last week could discourage truck drivers from barreling down residential streets by increasing the fines they would face. The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Martin Golden and Assemblyman Joseph Lentol, would fine truckers \$200 on a first offense, up from \$50. A third offense could land truck drivers in jail and owing as much as \$2,000. But an aide to Councilman David Yassky, who represents parts of Dean Street, said the problem stems not from too-few fines, but from an inability by some traffic police to hand out summonses. In December, Yassky introduced legislation that would reclassify the responsibilities of traffic police, some of whom aren't authorized to ticket truckers who veer from accepted routes. Currently, the Truck Route Enforcement Act is in committee.

Others on the street claim that trucks are to blame for a spate of recent water main breaks. Timothy Logan, a member of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, an organization that fights disparate impacts in low-income communities, says that a plumber inspected a leak in his home at 401 Dean St. and came to the same conclusion. "I mean, what else could it be? They all happened at the same time," says Logan. The Dean Street Block Association has contacted local politicians, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Department of Transportation for answers, but residents have found little assistance. "They never told us how they were going to relieve a little pressure from us," said Vasquez, who is vice president of the block association and owns her home at 386 Dean St. According to MTA spokesman James Anyans, construction on three elevators at the Pacific Street subway station began underground in early 2000, but in 2001 the renovations spread to Atlantic Avenue, closing several lanes of traffic. Anyans said the project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. "As time goes on, we've eased some of the pressure," he said. Recently, however, community leaders say a light can be seen at the end of the street — and it isn't from the front of a semi. Last Tuesday, the first in a series of citywide meetings was held at the City College of New York, in Manhattan, to determine the impact of truck traffic on neighborhoods. The DOT is using these forums, which will be conducted in all five boroughs, to help fuel a yearlong,

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Schonbrun, Machon Bais Yaakov Hilda Birn HS; Aisha T. Seaforth, Cobble Hill School for American Studies; Briana Lee Seagriff, New Utrecht HS; Nafiali Selengur, Mirrer Yeshiva HS; Esther Seruya, Bet Yakov Ateret Torah HS; Justin C. Shea, Bishop Ford Central Catholic HS; Karanja Smith, Metropolitan Corporate Academy; Taina K. Solano, Street Academy HS; Stacey-Ann N. Taylor, Bishop Loughlin Memorial HS; Khemraj Tiwari, Freedom Academy; Natalie Wambach, George Westinghouse Voc. & Tech. HS; Sienna J. Wedderburn, Packer Collegiate Institute; Robert (Zevy) J. Weinstock, Torah Vodaath HS; Tayehsia Williams, George W. Wingate HS; Andrew A. Williams, HS of Enterprise, Business, & Technology; Leah N. Williams, Nazareth Regional HS; Lauren A. Williams, Science Skills Center HS; Yehoshkel Yandi, Yeshivat Or Hatorah; Susan W. Yip, Canarie HS; Andre W. Young, EBC School for Public Service-ENY; Rostislav Yuniver, John Dewey HS; Cai Yun Zhao, Brooklyn International HS; Mikhail Zhurba, Chanoch Lenar

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Ed Weintrob / Cheers for Vic Cantone, Paper cartoonist

Vic Cantone hasn't drawn for The Brooklyn Papers in quite a while, but he remains one of our most loyal readers, and one of his ardent fans.

When Vic's cartoons graced our front pages in the 1990s, he'd hop on the Long Island Railroad from his home in Bethpage, sketchboard and inks in hand, and find an open desk in our Court Street office—ready to express his view, or ours. One week, amidst an exploding controversy in Bay Ridge over plans by developer Charles Katz to build what The Papers labeled a

"mega-mall," Vic captured the spirit of all the protagonists, including Katz (depicted as a well-fed feline) and then-City Council candidate Marty Golden. It was a great cartoon, one of my favorites, and it would have stood the test on its own. Then, one of our staffers suggested the addition of fleas to the space around Katz's face, and fleas became a trademark in Vic's ongoing mega-mall rendition.

After the U.S. Supreme Court library porn ruling on Monday, Vic called to remind me of his February 1999 cartoon that featured a mop-



The Brooklyn Papers covered each side of the library computer porn issue, and Vic's cartoons exposed sensitivities on all sides.

Over the years, Vic contributed to the Daily News, was syndicated

by King Features and was active in local press organizations. He'd send me the latest editions of "Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year," an annual volume in which one or more of his Brooklyn Papers cartoons would invariably be represented; my son, a budding cartoonist, loves to page through them.

We dropped our editorial page a few years back to give more space to news coverage, expecting to resume it "any day now." We also stopped running cartoons on our front page. Vic stood by, reading each week's editions, calling period-

ically to let us know he had lots of ideas. We weren't ready to resume the editorial page, we'd demur.

Several months ago, Vic was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. Drawing with either hand is beyond him now, and the disease progresses. Recently, he made it to his son's graduation, with honors, from Northeastern University, an accomplishment and a joy for both parent and child. And his wife encouraged him to attend a Deadline Club awards dinner—it was a difficult trip from Bethpage to Manhattan

—at the Marriott Marquis, where he was presented with an award for distinguished service.

"At least Lou Gehrig was a champion," Vic said the other day. As is Vic Cantone.

A Maimonides win

It's said you can tell the quality of an individual by his or her friends; on that basis, evidenced by those in attendance at Maimonides Medical Center, the hospital is clearly privileged in its leadership.

Among the recognizable faces was Brier's husband, Peter Aschkenasy, whose smile lit the room while his wife spoke. Peter, former owner of Gage & Tollner, is active in Brooklyn's arts community.

Hospitals are old institutions. On the one hand, they are big businesses, very big, that tend to be imposing entities—and not always appreciated—in the communities. But when you need medical help, it's important that there's one nearby, and you're grateful if it's one that meets the standards of Maimonides.

72 Poplar back off market

Yassky yanks former police building from auction block for housing

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Heights' most on-again, off-again project is off again—for now.

Councilman David Yassky had the former police department building at 72 Poplar St. pulled from the auction block on June 17 to explore the feasibility of affordable housing in the building.

"One possible developer expressed an interest in developing the building, particularly for affordable housing, and I want to see if there's any way to

make that happen," Yassky told The Brooklyn Papers this week. He declined to identify the developer.

"It's not over 'til it's over but it looks like we're going to lose the 20 Henry St. building as affordable housing and one of the Cadman Towers buildings converted to market rate recently," Yassky said. "We're just at risk of losing any opportunity for affordable housing in the neighborhood."

The Penon Company, which owns 20 Henry St., better known as the Candy Factory, is attempting to buy out of the Mitchell-Lama housing pro-

gram and the residents of 75 Henry St., a middle-income co-operative complex, voted last year to convert their apartments to market value.

The building at 72 Poplar St., between Hicks and Henry streets, had been headed to the auction block when the City Council, prompted by Yassky, voted to delay any bidding for nine months until the feasibility of affordable housing could be examined.

Yassky said proposals for affordable housing would be given to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Should the agency approve of

plans for middle-income housing, the property could be internally transferred to it.

If plans are not feasible, Yassky said, "then the city will sell it to the highest bidder." For the city, selling 72 Poplar St. has turned out to be a daunting task.

The last time the building was reviewed for disposal, two years ago, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services withdrew its application at the request of Yassky's predecessor, Ken Fisher.

He said there was interest in converting the building to a

medical office and additional rumors circulated in the community that a school would occupy the building, which neighbors vehemently opposed.

The project began its second trip through public review this year and Community Board 2 unanimously re-approved the sale on the condition that it only be used for residential uses and not for "community facilities," which could include anything from a school annex to a religious institution. It was the same recommendation CB2 made in 2001.

Two years ago, the Brooklyn

Heights Association (BHA) took a similar position, without specifying what type of housing the building should contain.

"We expressed a preference for housing and we stated that we would prefer not to see a community facility or commercial use," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the BHA.

Yassky's removal of the project to explore housing didn't come without a measure of anxiety from community activists.

"I have concerns an unintended consequence of the council's actions [will be] that the building will remain vacant for another two years as it has since the last time it was pulled," Stanton said.

The police department purchased 72 Poplar St. in 1909 and it served as the 84th Precinct stationhouse, followed by the office of Internal Affairs, and then the police intelligence unit, which moved out in 2000.

Atlantic Ave plan shown

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

Consultants for the Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation released their proposals for the avenue between Fourth Avenue and Furman Street at a sparsely attended town hall meeting Saturday.

They called for increased walkability, traffic and parking management and new development opportunities.

"The scale and the use and the diversity is great," said Frank Cannon, project manager with the Denver-based Civitas, the consultant on the master plan. "You've got old, you've got new," he said.

While Civitas envisions Atlantic Avenue being the overall "gateway to Brooklyn," the three major portals to the avenue have been identified at Furman Street, Boerum Place and Flatbush Avenue. Among the enhancements suggested to facilitate those "gateways" are zoning changes to create development opportunities at Boerum Place and extending the commercial zone all the way to the waterfront to draw foot traffic to Furman Street.

"Today [Furman Street] is a very difficult place to walk to," Cannon said. "And there is nothing there to make you want to walk there."

In addition to a series of traffic treatments at Columbia and Furman streets, meant to simplify the off- and on-ramps to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, the consultants have also suggested the city create aesthetic enhancements to the BQE bridge over Atlantic Avenue to attract pedestrians' eyes west.

At Boerum Place, Cannon recommended rezoning several sites to allow bigger buildings, as an incentive to developers. The consultants have identified "key sites" that would be desirable for development on all four corners of Atlantic Avenue and Boerum Place, including the Brooklyn House of Detention and two gas stations on either side of the avenue.

Civitas consultants would like to see the gas stations replaced, but acknowledged that it might not be easy.

"It may not be a matter of zoning," said consultant Robert Pauls. "It may be a matter that Mohl doesn't want to give it up."

But a zoning change could offer enough of an incentive for developers to replace the lots. A rezoning would increase height limits to allow for 80-foot-tall buildings from a current maximum of 60 feet.

In addition, consultants suggested reducing the Atlantic Avenue crosswalk at Boerum Place by two lanes and widening sidewalks—or conversely widening the median—creating opportunities for public amenities such as benches. That would have to be done by the Department of Transportation.

At Flatbush Avenue, Cannon recommended a flag or signage as a "gateway statement" as well as some pedestrian connection to the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the planned Atlantic Terminal retail and office development at Flatbush Avenue and Hanson Place.

Consultants also suggest improving the daunting crosswalk at Flatbush Avenue but acknowledged that further study would be required for specific recommendations.

The planners hired Sam "Gridlock Sam" Schwartz, a traffic columnist and private consultant, to brainstorm a number of traffic enhancements, among them the addition of Mini-Meters and dedicated right-turn lanes at Hoyt Street, Nevins Street and Third Avenue. Representatives of the DOT confirmed that if merchants agreed to such a turn lane it would consider lifting the 4 pm to 7 pm parking restriction.

Schwartz also recommends that the city explore directing traffic to Schermerhorn and Livingston streets as alternative routes to the Brooklyn Bridge.

A lingering issue for the study is how to implement the proposals. Certain suggestions, such as having well-lit front-window displays, not blocked by roll-down security gates at night would warm the avenue with light, and could be implemented by the merchants themselves.

Others, such as some traffic recommendations, can be presented to the DOT but will likely require a lobbyist, and others, such as streetscapes, will need a fundraising entity to make the suggestions a reality.

Candace Damon, president of the Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation (LLDC), said it is hoped that most of the work will be performed by the Atlantic Avenue Leadership Conference.

"There are certain other options that might be considered," Damon said. "But there's reason to be hopeful that a coalition could do

See ATLANTIC on page 11

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Piers 6-12 plan proves a hard sell

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

Coming to South Brooklyn with a plan that stands to increase traffic or displace labor is about as difficult as, well, crossing Hamilton Avenue during rush hour or convincing a longshoreman to wear something frilly.

On Wednesday, consultants hired by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the city's Economic Development Corporation to investigate "the best possible uses" for a 1.2-mile stretch of the working Brooklyn waterfront, found out just how nasty that can be.

Sal Catucci, owner of American Stevedoring, a shipping firm that currently leases most of Piers 6-12 along the waterfront west of Cobble Hill and Red Hook, got into another heated confrontation with lead consultant John Alschuler.

"Will you shut your mouth a minute?" Catucci implored, drawing a few sighs and hisses from the audience. The two had locked horns at a meeting in Red Hook last month, as well.

While so far, Red Hook's future has been huddled piecemeal over individual plans such as the Fairway supermarket to be built at 480-500 Van Brunt St., and an Ikea proposal at the former New York Shipyard's site on the Erie Basin, the city and state are now looking at the whole lot and caboodle.

Last year, the Port Authority, with the city's Economic Development Corporation, announced it would hire a consultant to investigate alternative uses for Piers 6-12, on the waterfront between Atlantic Avenue and Pioneer Street.

While what Alschuler presented on June 18 remained only an abstract of how the waterfront might look, it did include components that indicate how seriously certain options are being considered and it was enough to make some Red Hook activists a bit uncomfortable.

Carnival Cruise Lines

At PS 15, on Sullivan Street between Richards and Van Brunt streets, Alschuler, a partner in Hamilton, Rabinowitz & Alschuler (HRA), presented a series of schematics with housing and big-box stores occupying the upland portions of the piers and cruise terminals and recreational and port facilities mixed and matched on the harbor landings.

While Alschuler acknowledged that the final plan for Piers 6-12 would probably not look like the designs presented, he did indicate that they offered an overview of what was being considered. And Carnival Cruise Lines appeared in all of the designs.

Alschuler said the EDC continues to negotiate with the company over Pier 7 and that the agency has even issued a request for proposals to select a consultant to investigate the cruise ship industry in New York City.

Carnival's plans, he added, include ships docking on either side of Pier 7 with a replacement of the existing storage shed for parking and possibly trade shows in the off-season.

To identify potential tenants or owners of the piers, the Port Authority has issued a "request for expressions of interest" to take in proposals from potential tenants or owners.

"There are a range of port businesses who we've talked to, that others have talked to, that are describing what they might do here," Alschuler said. "And we want to hear from them."

Loss of labor

Far and away the thorniest topic was the loss of jobs on the waterfront. American Stevedoring's lease on the piers runs out in April 2004 and a cheering section of longshoremen roared their approval every time a speaker ripped the study. The loudest critic was Catucci.

"If they want to take me out of that terminal they're going to bury me there," he declared.

Angrily stating that the study stalled negotiations to bring Phoenix Distribution — the primary warehouse, distribution and



The South Brooklyn piers, much of which are leased by American Stevedoring, as seen from Manhattan.

sales company in New York City for Heineken, Guinness and Miller beer products — to Pier 12 he said. "We're talking right now 1,100 jobs that could be at that terminal in addition to the 600 jobs that are on that terminal right now."

American Stevedoring has begun to circulate its own preemptive study, performed by the New Jersey-based DCG Corplan Consulting Group, which asserts that leaving the piers could result in a loss of \$12.34 million in wages to Brooklyn residents.

Alschuler, however, contended that the piers American Stevedoring leases require more than \$25 million a year in government subsidies to stay afloat.

"As far as our losses," Catucci fired back, "we are the only terminal in the port that has reduced our costs in the terminal the last two years and we'll reduce it again substantially this year. So far as us being a drag on the port, it's not true. It's costing them a lot more in Howland Hook."

Going forward

The consultants have decided that the pace of the study should be slowed down and the public input phase extended from the end of July to September 30.

In the interim, Marilyn Gelber, executive director of the Independence Community Foundation, and Kenneth Adams, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, will head a "community working group" comprised of representatives of community organizations, business groups and elected officials to solicit additional community input.

Among the interests to be heard Wednesday night were residents' ongoing concerns for traffic and housing.

David Mackenzie, a resident of Columbia Street, said any uses that stand to increase traffic, threaten the older homes, which already rattle with every passing truck.

"What we're trying to do is balance the traffic burden with the need to create jobs," Alschuler said.

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Notice of Sale. Supreme Court: Kings County Index #0322599. That a contract of sale has been entered into by the Estate of Louis Mignone to sell property pursuant to a will, owned by the deceased, Louis Mignone, 283 First St. St. IL, 960, 1st Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11217, in the amount of \$400,000.00. The guardian and heirs, Benedetti Ruggieri, of one of the distributees entitled by law to a 1/3 share, is seeking approval of the Court to sell the property pursuant to contract entered into by the Estate. The guardian and heirs shall submit all other bids before the Court on or before July 15, 2003, to approve the contract already entered into. The sale has already been approved by the other four distributees entitled by law to sell the property. All offers shall be conveyed to Bert Tarn, Esq., attorney for the Estate of Louis Mignone, and for the petitioners, Benedetti Ruggieri, guardian and heirs for James DeVincenti, A/L, residing at P.O. Box 149, Old Westbury, NY 11568-1499. PS24-27

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Cancer survivors party

During a "Cancer Survivors Day" celebration on June 8, about 300 survivors of the disease, their families and the physicians and nurses that cared for them parade around New York Methodist Hospital (below). At right, Maimonides Medical Center held a cancer survivors celebration on June 10 featuring dancing, prizes, give-aways, raffles and entertainment, where over 100 patients and their friends received a free breakfast or lunch.



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BRIDGE...

Continued from page 1
croft said at a Justice Department news conference on June 19. "While we are disabling al-Qaeda, we don't believe it is disabled."

Under an agreement reached May 1 and unsealed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., just outside Washington, Faris pleaded guilty to providing material support to terrorists and conspiracy to provide support.

Faris, who is represented by a lawyer and said in the documents he was not coerced to plead, could face 20 years in prison and up to \$500,000 in fines. Sentencing was set for Aug. 1.

A government statement, signed by Faris, says that he was instructed by a senior al-Qaeda operative to obtain "gas cutters," probably acetylene torches, that would enable him to sever the cables on "a bridge in New York City" that officials said was the Brooklyn Bridge.

Although the senior operative is referred to only as "C-2" in the documents, a U.S. law enforcement official speaking on condition of anonymity identified him as Mohammed.

He was captured in Pakistan on March 1 and is said to be providing interrogators with a wealth of information about al-Qaeda's global reach.

Faris was told to refer to the cutters as "gas stations" so eavesdroppers would not get wind of the plot.

In addition, Mohammed told Faris that he should obtain heavy torque tools — code-named "mechanics shops" — that could be used to derail trains in the United States, the affidavit says. No details about location or time of an attack is mentioned in the court papers, and they name only New York and Washington.

None of the allegedly planned attacks occurred.

The meetings took place in 2000, 2001 and early 2002 in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the government statement says.

The statement says that Faris researched the Brooklyn Bridge on the Internet and traveled to New York in late 2002 to examine it, finally concluding that "the plot to destroy the bridge by severing the cables was very unlikely to succeed."

He sent a coded message via the Internet in early 2003 to al-Qaeda leaders: "The weather is too hot."

Faris' original contact with al-Qaeda came through a second person operative, named only as "C-1" or "bin Laden's right foot," whom the government says Faris had known

since the Soviet-Afghanistan war in the 1980s.

Earlier, he was asked by bin Laden associates in late 2000 to look into al-Qaeda's use of a truck, which could be used as an escape plane by al-Qaeda operatives, prosecutors say. Faris had mentioned his access to airports as a trucker, sparking interest in cargo planes because of their weight and high fuel capacity.

In addition, Faris helped al-Qaeda obtain 2,000 lightweight sleeping bags that were shipped to Afghanistan for use by bin Laden and other al-Qaeda members.

Using a disguise, he helped up to six al-Qaeda members with travel arrangements so they could go to Yemen and also delivered cell phones and cash to Mohammed, court documents say.

Admitted senior FBI officials would not detail the circumstances of Faris' arrest. They also would not say whether Faris was part of an active al-Qaeda cell in the United States, or whether any of his activities had previously been members.

Faris is a native of Kashmir who originally came to the United States in May 1994. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in December 1999. Also known as Mohammed Rauf, he has been working as an independent trucker based in Columbus for several years.

Under that alias, records show he was married to Geneva Bowling from 1995 to 2000 and lived with her in a small home in Columbus. "That someone even associated with this craziness is right here in Columbus," it's said, said Negia Ross, who lives next door.

"Where possible we will take the terror organization apart in large pieces and in this case one piece at a time," said Pasquale "Pat" D'Amato, chief of the FBI's counterterrorism division after Ashcroft's announcement.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the Justice Department has obtained a number of guilty pleas from or won court convictions of members of al-Qaeda cells, including six of seven members of an alleged cell in Lackawanna, N.Y. The Faris plot, however, is unusual in that it involves direct connections to al-Qaeda plots.

Two alleged members of a radical Islamic movement allied with al-Qaeda were convicted earlier this month in Detroit of providing material support and resources to the terrorist group by running an illegal document ring. One of them was acquitted in that case.

HOUSING...

Continued from page 1

by a massive \$100 million planning effort being undertaken by the city to maximize retail, residential and commercial development in Downtown Brooklyn.

Michael Burke, the newly installed head of the architectural firm McKim Mead and White in 1926 — designers of the old Penn Station, the New York Herald Building and the Morgan Library — 110 Livingston St. was taken over by the Board of Education in 1939.

Bloomberg's predecessor, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, also recommended selling the Education headquarters but while he issued an RFP, he was never able to take control of the agency from the state Legislature. However, he turned it out. That RFP, however, gave rise to a lawsuit for rental units, condominiums or dormitory space for local academic institutions.

Bloomberg.

The anticipated profit from the building has not yet been made public, although the EDC said after it released the RFP that a portion of the proceeds would be used to create affordable housing.

Build by the architectural firm McKim Mead and White in 1926 — designers of the old Penn Station, the New York Herald Building and the Morgan Library — 110 Livingston St. was taken over by the Board of Education in 1939.

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TRUCKS...

Continued from page 1

since the problem was being properly addressed.

DeBlasio urged the DOT to begin exploring options for signage and altering certain two-way streets to one-way. He also advocated for a bill that he co-sponsored that would require trucks to have color-coded maps detailing the designated truck routes.

Artino responded that her agency has commissioned the New Jersey-based consulting firm of Edwards and Kelcey to perform a study on truck-route management over the next year.

David Stein, that project's manager, said the citywide study, which began in April, would hold meetings in all five boroughs to examine signage, education of trucking companies and traffic policy to determine how to deal with truck traffic.

"We are going to look at what are the problems, and why are there problems?" Stein said.

Artino was unable to say exactly when the recommendations would be released.

"What do we have to endure before someone gets killed?" Perotti asked.

The impact of Brooklynties would be sought for the study on July 15, inside Borough Hall, at Joralemon and Court streets in Downtown Brooklyn, from 6 pm to 8:30 pm.



B'klyn beats

Elizabeth Garcia (above) on the Beard Street Pier in Red Hook Saturday, where she gets a kiss from her grandson, Matt Gallagher, along with a proclamation from Borough President Marty Markowitz in honor of her 90th birthday. At right, former New York Knicks great Bernard King displays a plaque awarded to him by the Brooklyn Kings Basketball team Tuesday at Applebees on Flatbush and DeKalb avenues. Below, Police Officer Grace Moments swings jump rope at 88th Precinct Youth Day in Fort Greene Park June 14.



By Patrick Gallagher
The Brooklyn Papers

A retail expert told the Montague Street Business Improvement District this week to mix things up.

At its seventh annual meeting on Thursday, the BID invited Brooklyn Heights resident and marketing consultant Elizabeth Rodgers, a partner in the Manhattan-based Rodgers and McCauley Inc., to offer her impressions on the primary commercial corridor in the Heights. While she applauded the street's historic character and "sense of place" she warned of pitfalls if the "passive uses" on the block, such as banks, salons and opticians, continued to proliferate.

"We have to keep on our toes," Rodgers said after pointing out the competition on the increasingly trendy Smith and Court streets. "We can't afford to have five or six opticians on the street or 10 mail places."

"If you keep going in that direction you're killing the street," she added later in the meeting. Though many of the shops west of Clinton Street are lively retail establishments, the block between Clinton and Court streets is informally known as "banker's row."

There are currently six banks, four beauty parlors and at least three opticians on what is basically a three-block retail strip.

The only vacant space west of Clinton Street large enough to host a bank is at Montague Mews on the corner of Henry Street. The property's broker, William Ross, of William S. Ross Real Estate, at 156 Montague St., who is secretary of the BID, said, "I think [Montague Mews] is going to remain a retail spot. The only semi-passive use that might occur is

someone may take a small, small space downstairs and a large space upstairs. That could be some kind of service group and that would be fine." Dictating desirable uses on Montague Street has been a challenge because few small merchants can afford the astronomical ground-floor rents, which average about \$80 per square foot, according to the BID. Therefore, about the only retail businesses that can afford the large spaces are chain stores.

If counting on the beneficence of landlords fails, however, limiting the spread of "passive uses" could be achieved through zoning changes, Rodgers said, although that requires a lengthy public review process. Similar restrictions, she added, have been applied to Times Square to limit the electronic and video stores, most of which had been porn shops in the 1970s and early '80s.

"It's a long process to say we want an overlay in Brooklyn Heights to protect its historic character," she said. "It's very difficult."

Valerie Lynch, the BID's executive director, said that a zoning restriction would require a vote of the board of directors to see if there was sufficient support. One neighborhood activist at the meeting, Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association, was intrigued by the possibility.

"There was an effort to try and improve on the variety of stores [about 12 years ago] that Montague Street supports," she said. "And we weren't successful then. But if there were a way to limit the number of opticians, hair salons, passive uses such as banks, in favor of a broader mix of stores I think people would seriously look at it."

Rodgers also encouraged having well-lit displays not blocked by security gates to light up Montague Street at night. In the past year, the Montague Street BID's assessments increased to a total of \$124,500.

Sustaining its mission to keep the block clean, the Montague BID continues to contract with the Doe Fund at \$38,000 annually for its Ready, Willing and Able program employing formerly homeless people. Additional BID programs include marketing and promotion, holiday decorations and special events including last year's Montague Street Arts Festival on Oct. 5.



Post time

Aldo Martucci is flanked by appreciative seniors Josephine Piccirilli (left), Rita Pellicano and Gladys Cudipe (all from the Eileen Dugan Senior Center on Court Street), who honored him for his successful efforts to return a post office to their neighborhood, in fact, inside the senior center.

Help your child combat obesity

Q: "My son is 11 and seems to be very self-conscious about his weight lately. Although he has gained a few pounds, it's not anything major. I have noticed he's eating more often than usual. How can I encourage him to eat healthy without making him feel more self-conscious?"

A: Self-conscious? The feeling is sure to arise as nature unleashes physical and emotional changes at this stage.

It's not unusual for boys to gain several pounds with the hormonal changes leading up to puberty, then drop the weight as they enter the adolescent growth spurt.

"Parents and their children should not automatically become alarmed by this weight increase," says Nancy Krebs, MD, head of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Nutrition.

As childhood obesity emerges as a tremendous national health-care problem, parents need to know: Is my child gaining weight at a rate

that's in the normal range? The first step, Krebs says, is to talk to your pediatrician or health-care provider, who will look at growth charts to determine the appropriate weight range for your child based on gender, age, height and body build.

Your pediatrician can use body mass index charts to determine whether your child's weight gain during puberty is too rapid or excessive relative to his height gain, Krebs says.

If your child is overweight, the doctor will explore why and discuss strategies to slow the weight gain or treat excessive weight gain. Pediatricians don't typically get into the nuts and bolts of how to plan healthy meals, but will refer you to a nutritionist.

"The most successful programs concentrate not only on dietary modifications and physical activity, but also on boosting a youngster's self-esteem," Krebs says. A similar approach worked for a mother who says she nurtured her kids through puberty by not making

a big deal about weight gain, serving nutritious meals and snacks, and by reminding them the awkward stage was temporary.

"My son and daughter had some hard days due to the weight gain as well as other emotional and physical changes," the mother recalls. "This can be an easier time for children to deal with if they understand there's nothing wrong with them." But a mother with her own agenda

— "My child is fat!" — risks alienating her son if she singles him out for a diet. Instead, focus on making healthier food choices and fun activities for the entire family.

"For the young adolescent, it's still important for parents to be the gatekeepers for the food in the home and the eating habits of the family," Krebs says.

And don't underestimate how your focus on healthier eating at home influences the choices your kids make away from home, she says.

Keep in mind these factors

Parent-to-Parent

By Betsy Flagler



increase a child's chances of weight problems:

- A family history of obesity. If you're overweight and inactive, your kids are more likely to be the same way.
- Too much TV and computer time, where sedentary virtual soccer-burns wins out over calorie-burning games outside.
- Super-sized fast food meals with sodas instead of more balanced meals at home.
- Stress that causes children to eat out of boredom, anxiety or for comfort, not hunger.
- Disorders are the culprits in a few cases. How do these risk factors match your child's eating habits? Is he like most kids, according to the American Dietetic Association, in that he:
 - Has too much fat in his diet?
 - Eats about half of the suggested five fruits and veggies a day?
 - Snacks in front of the television, and munchies make up for nearly 20 percent of his total and saturated fat intake?
 - So, sneak in gradual change.
- Become informed and pay attention to what food you buy and prepare for your family, but don't turn into the food police, says Elynn Satter, author of "Secrets of Feeding a Healthy Family" (Kelsey Press, 1999).
- Trust your child to regulate how much he eats, says Satter, whose Web site is www.elynn-satter.com. That's his job, not mom's.
- Ideas for healthier habits:
 - Make a food rainbow. The more colorful your plate, the more comprehensive the selection of nutrients is likely to be.
 - Have popcorn and movie nights, but otherwise limit snacks in front of the television. Blame bugs and crumbs,



meals with sodas instead of more balanced meals at home. Stress that causes children to eat out of boredom, anxiety or for comfort, not hunger. Disorders are the culprits in a few cases. How do these risk factors match your child's eating habits? Is he like most kids, according to the American Dietetic Association, in that he:

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- Ideas for healthier habits:
 - Make a food rainbow. The more colorful your plate, the more comprehensive the selection of nutrients is likely to be.
 - Have popcorn and movie nights, but otherwise limit snacks in front of the television. Blame bugs and crumbs,

not potential flab. Track how much of your family's food budget goes toward fast food. Agree on ways to cut back, and put the savings toward family outings. A resource: the American Dietetic Association's consumer hotline at (800) 366-1655 offers referrals to dietitians. The organization's Web site is www.eatright.org. Parents concerned about

their children's calorie intake can obtain a copy of the new Parent To Parent newsletter "Getting Over Eating" by sending a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. If you have tips or a question, please call our toll-free hotline any time at (800) 827-1092 or e-mail us at p2p@att.net.

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TYSON ARRESTED...

Continued from page 1

man outside the hotel and instinctively brought his camera up from his shoulder and snapped a picture.

"He just flipped out," Callan told Poyser, who wrote, "In a flash, Callan said, 'Tyson lunged toward me. He got to within a couple of feet of me.' But Tyson's security people got between the two men. 'They formed a wall between me and Tyson.'"

That did nothing to calm Tyson, who ripped his jacket off his body and threw it to the ground before charging toward Callan, who had photographed a young, heavy-weight-champion Tyson in 1987, as he worked out at Gleason's Gym in DUM-BO.

"I kept saying, 'I'll kill that mother---! I'll kill that mother---!'" in that squeaky little voice of his," Callan told Poyser. "I kept saying, 'Mike, Mike, take it easy! We've met before.'"

But Tyson was raging and Callan said he heard him say to his bodyguards, "Get his film." Callan wisely ran across Adams Street. He tried to remove the film from his camera while doing so but in the process ruined the one frame of Tyson he had shot, as well as just about all the shots from the awards ceremony.

Two men did catch up to Callan, but they were security from the hotel, who apologized to the photographer and told him, "Tyson really wants to kill you," Callan said. Callan recalled that he saw Tyson across the street, pacing back and forth like an animal in a cage.

In Saturday's incident, Tyson, who turned 37 on Tuesday, was arrested at 5:30 am after a fight with two Pennsylvania men outside the hotel, police said. All three were guests at the hotel.

According to police, Samuel Velez, 31, of Reading, Pa., and Nestor Alvarez, 24, of Philadelphia, were with a woman outside the hotel when the fight began. One of the men used a metal pole grabbed from the lobby against Tyson, who was treated for minor cuts to his hands. He had his right hand bandaged when he left the police station.

A source close to the investi-



Brooklyn Papers photographer Tom Callan with copy of New York Post reporting his run-in with Mike Tyson at the Brooklyn Marriott in 1998.

gation said the two men started the fight with Tyson, adding that the boxer feared the men would hit him with the pole. "They did instigate it," the source told the Associated Press. "They were harassing him, saying things to him. But Tyson was the one who threw the first punch."

At 5-foot-11 and 230 pounds, Tyson gave up about 15 pounds to Velez but enjoyed a 7-inch height advantage, one of the few times in his pugilistic career he's had a height or reach advantage. Meanwhile, Alvarez-Ramos was estimated to be a middleweight at 160 pounds and standing 5-foot-8.

Velez and Alvarez were charged with menacing in the second degree, menacing in the third degree and harassment, all

misdeamors, said a spokesman for Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes. The men were arraigned early Sunday and entered pleas of not guilty to the charges, the spokesman said.

One of the men and their female companion were treated for minor injuries at Bellevue Hospital, police said. Tyson was not taken to the hospital.

Tyson in the precinct, and was issued a desk appearance ticket. He is due at Brooklyn Criminal Court on July 24 for his arraignment.

"He was arrested and he was processed in accordance with standard procedures and he was released in accordance with standard procedures," Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct, told The Brooklyn Papers.

never got a denial."

Additional projects that were on the FMA's funds were a \$115,000 security kiosk, a \$90,000 display of holiday lights along the street and an awards dinner in 2001 and luncheon in 2002 that cost more than \$20,000.

"Unfortunately, every BID has a very finite budget," said Michael Burke, director of the economic development advocacy group, the Downtown Brooklyn Council. "If you put a lot of money into one thing it doesn't go into something else. They made a tradeoff that didn't work very well."

The costs spending forced the FMA to cancel its contract with Park Avenue Security last year and it entered into a new contract with Bowles Corporate Services, decreasing security from 15 officers to four working in split shifts.

Thompson's report revealed that the FMA even had to take out a \$300,000 loan to continue services.

Since Carbone's departure, however, the FMA has balanced its budget, successfully removed illegal banners from the Price Mart store at 408 Fulton St., increased staffing on the security booth and repaired the light, time and temperature displays on the archways. Benches are in the process of being repainted and its sanitation company has begun to collect trash on split shifts.

Business activists said the advances are only expected to improve under the new arrangement.

"Because these are two closely related BIDs with shared interests, independent operation would be unnecessary duplicative," said Downtown Brooklyn Councilman David Yeskey.

"This partnership will enhance the commercial core of downtown Brooklyn and its another important step toward a collective vision of Downtown."

Weiss said combining management of the two BIDs should trim doveling administrative costs and channel resources more effectively.

support to the DOT that they eliminate permit parking on Atlantic Avenue. Others said the recently shuttered House of Detention should be put to wards some productive reuse so the avenue could thrive.

"We're at the very threshold of something great," said Borough President Mark Markowitz. "It's the gateway into Brooklyn. No question. For all the people that live in the 'burbs, it's where Brooklyn begins."

With Carnival Cruise Lines negotiating for Pier 7 at the end of Atlantic Avenue, Weiss added he hoped that the avenue would soon also be "the gateway to Europe."

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FULTON...

Continued from page 1

management services for the FMA, such as sanitation, security, marketing and promotion, which dwindled under the leadership of Lou Carbone, former president and CEO of the FMA who resigned last summer amid allegations of fiscal mismanagement.

Under the contract, the FMA will maintain its own board of directors and continue to dictate its own budget, which will include services to be managed by the Metrotech BID.

Ten percent of the FMA's \$1.2 million assessment will be held in reserve for the Metrotech BID for increased operating costs. It can also withdraw FMA funds for expenses although the BID cannot exceed the budget approved by the FMA's board of directors.

Business improvement districts levy an assessment from property owners and merchants based on a fraction of the assessed value of the properties within the district to finance services such as garbage collection, security or other priorities determined by the participating businesses.

The Metrotech BID boasts a \$2.5 million annual assessment.

Also on Thursday, the FMA's board of directors is expected to replace its current chairman, George Silva, with Albert Laro, a principal in the United American Land Company, which owns a lot of property in the Fulton Mall area. Laro is a member of the board of directors for both FMA and the Metrotech BID.

Silva did not return calls by press time and Laro declined to comment until after Thursday's meeting.

The merger could provide the FMA with a chance to redirect itself after sanitation and security services in the mall diminished due to excessive capital projects and ques-

tionable management under Carbone.

Carbone's is a once politically well-connected former Community Assistance Unit committee member and long-time friend and then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Carbone's son, Tony, was also given a Giuliani administration post, as the mayor's deputy chief of staff, at the age of 28.

Lou Carbone resigned as commissioner in 1995 after \$156,000 in unreported fees and judgments against him. Carbone's resignation was uncovered.

Two years later, however, Carbone's reassured as the CEO and president of the FMA.

An audit report, released last February by city Comptroller William Thompson, stated that in fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001, combined, the BID operated at a loss of more than \$80,000.

Thompson also charged that the assessment made \$55,902 in disbursements that did not appear to fulfill its purpose.

One of the most audacious capital projects undertaken by Carbone was the construction of three arches over the entrances to the Fulton Mall at Flatbush Avenue, DeKalb Avenue and Boerum Place, which cost \$314,978, according to Thompson's report.

The 15-foot-tall archways feature LED time and temperature topped by miniature bridge replicas. They rasped mostly negative feedback from Community Board 2's traffic, transportation and safety committee and the city's Art Commission, which referred to them as "tacky" when they were presented in 2000.

But Carbone erected them anyway.

In February 2001, after the archways were put up, Carbone said, "I know what they feel [about the signs], and I know what I feel about them. Did I get approval from them?"

provement District (BID) for Atlantic Avenue.

Canon said they had looked at creating a BID but had not selected a particular structure to work with. Canon said later that options included a new organization with elected officials, neighborhood organizations, merchants, neighboring LDCs and community boards.

ATLANTIC...

Continued from page 6

much of this."

While the LDC is the official body behind the master plan, the community has been given an advisory status in the form of the Leadership Conference, comprised of representatives of elected officials, neighborhood organizations, merchants, neighboring LDCs and community boards.

Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6, asked on Saturday if the consultants had considered putting together a business im-

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BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO 2

The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • June 30, 2003

Home plates

New Brooklyn restaurants offer French, Italian & global cuisines

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn's burgeoning dining scene continues to gobble up real estate. Here's the latest about three newcomers: Park Slope's Paradox, Williamsburg's Chickenbone and Aliseo in Prospect Heights.

Across the river

Set a date for June 27, when Paradox — named after a French village — opens on Seventh Avenue between 14th and 15th streets.

If you need references, ask any of the customers who patronize their restaurant of the same name in the meatpacking district in Manhattan. They love chef Robert Ubhusa's charcuterie plates as well as his lusty pates and artisanal cheeses. He's cooking in the Slope, too.

Ubhusa has wooed them with terrines of roasted tomato, basil and goat cheese and salads of grilled quail and lentils. His grilled sandwiches and crepes are crowd pleasers. Try the duck confit entree with seared foie gras, potatoes lyonnaise and spinach.

Have it with a glass of wine as Paradox is known for their French wines.

And Joel Durand — who uses ingredients like rose petals, and rosemary and violets from Provence — makes their knockout chocolate truffle for dessert.

You want casual? The one large room is white and airy. The tables are topped with wine boxes as is the bar (just wine for now, later they'll have a full liquor license), and the ceiling is tented, Moroccan style, with golden fabric.

The Manhattan restaurant has been called a little bit of Provencal paradise due in large part to its lush, outdoor garden. The Park Slope version will be similar, and can seat 30 or 40.

Paradox (426A Seventh Ave., between 14th and 15th streets in Park Slope) accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Entrees: \$10-\$20. Dinner is served Tuesday through Sunday. Brunch and lunch is served Saturdays and Sundays, noon-4 pm. The restaurant is closed Mondays. For reservations, call (718) 499-5557.

A bone to pick

Sourcing local ingredients is nothing new for chefs (does the name Alice Waters ring a bell?) yet few cooks take their foraging as seriously as Zakary Pelaccio, the man behind the catchphrase "Brooklyn global cuisine."

Pelaccio — who has been dishing out multi-ethnic, small-plate cuisine in Williamsburg since April — gets his ingredients from small, Brooklyn purveyors.

"Georgie, the 80-year-old woman in the neighborhood," says co-owner Zini Lardieri, who, she adds, has been selling fresh mozzarella for "like 70 years," supplies the cheese for Pelaccio's panini, and the "artisanal kielbasa" that gives his kielbasa bruschetta such bite, hails from Sikorski's, a butcher in Greenpoint.

Everything inside Chickenbone, except the enormous, steel-rimmed windows, is cedar, but don't let the ski lodge-chic or the hipster patrons fool you. Pelaccio hails from California's French Laundry restaurant and Manhattan's Daniel.

He's as serious about food as his mentors, yet has a playful side: a pumpnick-



The Brooklyn Papers' Tina Barry

Skilodge-chic: Inside the new Chickenbone restaurant in Williamsburg. (Below left) Co-owner Zini Lardieri (right, with co-owner Scott Spector) says that many of the restaurant's fresh ingredients come from neighborhood purveyors.



The Brooklyn Papers' Tina Barry

el baguette is topped with slow-roasted salmon, watercress and wasabi oil, and one evening's soup du jour features fresh asparagus topped with a truffle oil poached egg. Wash it down with "the bone" — a rye cocktail laced with Tabasco — or lose it to the testosterone-laden bone with beef — the concoction plus a side of smoked beef with chilies. It's a man's drink, but we like it, too. Chickenbone Cafe (177 S. Fourth St. between Roebling Street and Driggs Avenue) accepts Visa and MasterCard. Entrees: \$7-\$15. The restaurant serves dinner Tuesdays-Thursdays and Sundays from 6 pm to 1:30 am, Fridays and Saturdays, dinner is served from 6 pm to 2:30 am. The restaurant is closed Mondays. No reservations accepted. For information, call (718) 302-2663.

Winds of change

It took two years for Albano Ballerini, the chef and owner of Aliseo Osteria, to complete the renovations to his Prospect Heights restaurant.

"I did most of the work myself. Me and three contractors, but I had to fire them regularly," Ballerini said with a laugh.

Opened in February, Ballerini's labor of love (named for the trade wind that buoyed Columbus to America) has a "sort of shabby-chic," he said. He described his 24-seat restaurant as "totally funky." One off-white, distressed brick wall faces another covered with vintage wallpaper; a three-seat counter serves as "the focus of attention," and "a gold-tint ceiling holds everything together."

Dishes hail from Marche, a region of Italy along the Adriatic coast, where Ballerini's father, "a master gelato maker," owns a cafe. The menu changes daily, depending on the freshest ingredients of the moment.

"We try not to be like the usual cafe," he said. One evening's "lasagna" featured crepes made from porcini mushroom flour, layered and filled with two sauces: a bechamel cream sauce and a meat sauce. "And," said Ballerini, "I use truffles a lot."

His selection of 20 to 25 varieties of cheese, some artisanal, are imported from Italy and are "the best in Brooklyn" — on a par with the big guys in Manhattan," he said. Pair the cheese with what Ballerini describes as "the largest selection of wine focusing on the Marche region," and it's amore.

Aliseo Osteria (665 Vanderbilt Ave. between Park Place and Prospect Place) accepts cash only. Entrees: \$11-\$14.50. The restaurant serves dinner Mondays-Saturdays, and brunch and dinner on Sundays, from 11 am to 11 pm. For information, call (718) 783-3400.

MUSIC

All-American

Classical music may at times seem the province of, primarily, dead Europeans, but Bargemusic's holiday program flies in the face of such a fallacy.

Yes, it's an all-American program on both July 3 and July 4, with at least one name that might raise eyebrows.

Not Brooklyn-born Aaron Copland, whose Sonata for Violin and Piano is on the bill; and certainly not George Gershwin, whose tragic death at age 38 robbed this country of one of its most fertile musical minds.

In fact, the Gershwin selections — arrangements from the opera "Porgy and Bess" by the great violinist Jascha Heifetz, along with a rarely performed arrangement of Gershwin's seminal work, "Rhapsody in Blue," for solo piano — are enticing in themselves.

But opening the concerts is the Sonata for Violin and Piano by Keith Jarrett — yes, that Keith Jarrett. As violinist Mark Peskanov, who programmed these concerts and will perform the piece with pianist Steven Beck, says, "It's a jazzy, wonderful-sounding piece" by a composer for whom jazz is but one musical outlet.

Maybe Peskanov is trying to sell tickets, but he insists about Jarrett that "if he wasn't born in Brooklyn, he sure wished he was."

Concertgoers on July 4 will receive a bonus (for \$25 extra): East River fireworks. As Bargemusic founder Olga Bloom says, "The police explained that the fireworks will be right outside our front door." Accordingly, the recital's start time has been moved up to 6:30 pm and the audience can linger on the barge after the show to watch the fireworks.

Peskanov and Beck will perform Jarrett, Copland and Gershwin on July 3 at 7:30 pm and July 4 at 6:30 pm at Bargemusic, on Fulton Ferry Landing in Brooklyn Heights. Tickets are \$30 on July 3 and \$55 on July 4. For more information, call (718) 624-2083 or visit www.bargemusic.org.

— Kevin Filipski

MUSIC

He's their man

Celebrate Brooklyn pays tribute to Leonard Cohen

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

Nick Cave and Laurie Anderson are just the latest two in a long list of respected artists who have jumped aboard Celebrate Brooklyn's June 28 tribute to the Canadian music god, Leonard Cohen.

The one-night-only event, "Come So Far For Beauty," is being organized by Hal Willner, who has also recruited Rufus Wainwright, Kate & Anna McGarrigle, Martha Wainwright, Mark Ribot, The Handsome Family, Linda Thompson, Teddy Thompson, Steve Bernstein, Rob Berger, Perla Batalla and Julie Christensen who have accompanied Cohen on his last two tours — to perform songs by the poet and songwriter.

This official tribute has been OK'd by Cohen himself, according to Willner, and is sponsored by the Canadian Consulate.

Performance artist Anderson is a frequent visitor to Brooklyn, having performed with her band at St. Ann's Warehouse last fall, and created a multimedia production, "Songs and Stories from Moby Dick," which opened the Brooklyn Academy of Music's 1999 Next Wave Festival.

Obviously, Laurie Anderson is one of the premier performance artists of our time," said Celebrate Brooklyn Director Jack Walsh. "Her interest was piqued by this project and what it means. We're thrilled she's going to be a part of it."

Cave, of Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds fame, "performs fairly irregularly" in the area, said Walsh. "He's an incredibly interesting artist who has a very long career as a great storyteller, sort of from the dark side," Walsh said. "He's a gloomy balladeer, uniquely suited as an interpreter of Leonard Cohen's work."

According to Willner, Cave will be rehearsing Cohen's "I'm Your Man," for the show, but anything could happen and Willner hesitated to say what any artist might be performing, chalking it up to both wanting to keep the evening

See COHEN on page GO 4

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Play date

Explore the city inside and out with this fun expert

By Jotham Sederstrom
For The Brooklyn Papers

You'd think that with all the time she spends coordinating activities, booking events and calling clients, Grace Dantas — also known as the Fun-Guru — would, quite frankly, be tired of such a steady intake of excitement.

This week, for example, Dantas and others will be bar-hopping in Midtown, karaoke-ing in the Village, dining on Brazilian cuisine, bowling in New Rochelle, brunching in Brooklyn and, finally, capping off the weekend with a little belly dancing. Sounds exhausting. But since August 2002, when Dantas and her husband, Arbia McLein, started Fun-Guru, a service dedicated to planning your social life, high-energy activity has been a regular part of this Brazilian's day-to-day schedule.

"Basically, we combined my lifestyle with his business plan and that's how we started," Dantas said between sips of spring cherry tea at the Court Street Bites & Nobles in Downtown Brooklyn. "The lifestyle started in Brazil, but it became serious here."

The plan is simple. Dantas and McLein book activities ranging from Yankees games and vegetarian dinners to more inspired events like rock climbing, Twitter and Lamenting. Moving her life in Rio de Janeiro, where she was born and lived until moving to Pennsylvania in 1998, Dantas' weekend starts on Thursday and doesn't end until Sunday night. Despite the stretched social calendar, she already has events lined up through January.

"They're just ideas that popped into my mind," said Dantas, her

SINGLES

Here are just a few of the Fun-Guru's events planned for Brooklyn in July. Call Grace Dantas for event locations and a complete listing of upcoming events at either (917) 292-GURU or (718) 253-9406 or log on to www.fun-guru.com.

Spend the Fourth of July with Dantas at the Ice Cream Factory near the Brooklyn Bridge at Old Fulton Street and the East River, a prime spot for watching the evening's fireworks display. Free \$15.

On July 5, join the Fun-Guru for a picnic at Prospect Park at 11 a.m. Free \$5.

On July 18, the Fun-Guru will be hosting a wine tasting in Park Slope at 6 p.m. Free \$15.



Hostess with the mostest: Fun-Guru Grace Dantas, spotted on the Prospect Park Carousel, brings New Yorkers together, one event at a time.

inations at Coney Island and the Ice Cream Factory at Fulton Landing, a personal favorite.

"The idea is to have events in all five boroughs, but we're trying to have more stuff in Brooklyn, and people seem to like that," said Dantas. "Let's make it happen in Brooklyn."

The difference between her service and, say, Social Circles, a similar business, is that membership isn't necessary. Although Fun-Guru offers memberships ranging from a monthly fee of \$24 to \$99, Dantas said that curiosity seekers are welcome to drop by for a single event, which runs anywhere from absolutely free (watching the sunset in Battery Park) to \$110 (a helicopter ride over Manhattan). Often, she says, an activity like kayaking will lure long-time members and first-timer non-members alike.

"If you don't want to be a member, then don't be. Let's just have fun," she said, dropping the word "fun" as if it were her personal playing card. "Why not go out and have a little fun and try to release a little?" But why not just pick up a copy of GO Brooklyn for event listings? Because, says Dantas, her way allows like-minded people — young and old, rich or poor — to meet on a social level.

"New York is a big city and people are here from all over the world," she said. "What I've noticed is that a lot of them are lonely. What we do is connect people with common interests."

Frank Jones, a single father with two teenagers, said that he's become a regular at Fun-Guru and even bought himself the \$99 monthly membership, what Dantas calls the "Fun-Atics package." It includes dis-

counts on events and free passes to other activities every three months. Dantas said that married couples and singles alike find their way to the Fun-Guru, but Jones, 43, said that the service is ideal for single parents such as himself.

"I'm constantly checking her Web site now," said Jones, who lives in Crown Heights. "The first event I went to was a comedy show and there were about seven or eight of us. The networking opportunities were great."

Dantas, who sits on the membership committee of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, also offers packages for small businesses, which, she said, can benefit because they could leave the organizing to her.

With Dantas, however, the subject always returns to one thing: "Let's go out and have fun, because life is so short not to have fun."

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Susan Rosenthal

THURS. JUNE 26

PUBLIC MEETING: Give your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Brooklyn Bridge Park, 5 p.m. Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon St. (718) 802-0603.

RECEPTION: Work of emerging Brooklyn painter Jen Ferguson is on display at an open studio in the artist's space, 5 to 9:30 p.m., 45 Man St. (718) 222-4860. Free.

MUSIC BY THE SEA: Kingsborough Community College Foundation fundraiser. Blues performer Larry Johnson is guest. Also, music by members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic. \$125 includes dinner, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Kingsborough Beachfront Park, 2001 Oriental Blvd. (718) 368-5000.

PILARS OF FT. GREENE: Evening of music, poetry, prose and history at Fort Greene Park. Tours of the park and children's writing workshop at 6:30 p.m. Poetry and prose by Vicki Whitman, Marianne Moore and Richard Wright. Also, music by Krieger and Ficklin at 7:30 p.m. Open readings at 8:30 p.m. Writer's Grove, Ft. Greene Park. (718) 398-4024. Free.

MEETING: Transportation Committee of Community Board 6, 6:30 p.m. Park Slope Library, 431 5th Ave. (718) 443-3027.

BROOKLYN CYCLONES: Team plays in City Valley Cats, 7 p.m. Call for ticket information, Surf Avenue between 17th and 19th streets. (718) 449-8497.

CINEMA NIGHT: Learn about military history during a monthly discussion series. Tonight's film, "Platoon," 7 p.m. Harbor Defense Museum, Fort Hamilton. (718) 630-4349. Free.

BARBERSHOP: All Beethoven chamber music, 5:35 to 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

POETRY NIGHT: American Opera Projects presents an evening of poetry, prose, music and dance, 7:30 p.m. Fort Greene Park, 151 Waller Grove. (718) 398-4024. Free.

LUXE: Music with Midnight Evil, 8 p.m. Call for ticket info. Also, all-night dance party at midnight, 256 Grand St. (718) 599-1000.

BARBERS BAR: The Will Holshouser Trio, Charlie Giordano and Neeraj York perform, 8 p.m. No cover, 376 North St. (718) 965-9177.

FLOATING CINEMA: Dance Films Association hosts "Portals, The Floating Cinema." Live music and dancing begins at 8:30 p.m. Screenings of dance films at 9:15 p.m. Wallman Rink, Prospect Park. (212) 727-0164. Free.

ONE WORLD SYMPOHONY: presents Mozart's "Così," 5:10, 8:30 p.m. Open rehearsal, \$5, 4 p.m. St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, corner of Clinton streets. (718) 576-9983.

GALA/PAOS ART SPACE: Brazil night with Feispaide, 9:30 p.m., 70 North Sixth St. (718) 324-7188.

UP OVER JAZZ CAFE: Robert Glasper Trio performs, \$10, 9 and 11 p.m., 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 398-5413.

FLAT: "True West," 8 p.m. See Sat.

THEATER: "The Cherry Orchard," 8 p.m. See Sat.

THEATER: "The Rover," 8 p.m., 180 Remsen St. See Sat.

ROOFTOP FILMS: Summer series of films at 9 p.m. Office Ops, 7 Thames St. (718) 417-7302. Free.

TWO BOOTS: Mob Scene plays soulful jazz. No cover, 10 p.m. to midnight, 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

Survey says

The 2003-04 "Zagat Survey: Brooklyn" (\$9.95) is now on the stands. This second guide, edited by Randi Gollin and Carroll Gardens resident Benjamin Schermer, includes Brooklyn restaurants, nightlife, shopping, entertainment and attractions.

The survey results place Williamsburg's Peter Luger Steakhouse at the top of the food heap, with Fulton Ferry's Grimaldi's, Prospect Heights' Garden Cafe and Smith Street's Grocery following closely behind.

— Lisa J. Curtis

SAT. JUNE 28

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIRDING: Urban Park Rangers give you a tour of the resident birds of the Salt Marsh Nature Center, 8 a.m., 302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

LOST THEATERS: Theater historian at Cedar Del Valle leads a tour of "The Lost Theaters of Park Slope." Learn about places where Henry Youngman, Sophie Tucker and Fred Astaire performed. \$11, discounts for seniors and students, 11 a.m. Meet at corner of Fifth Avenue and 16th Street. (718) 499-3750.

WATER WONDERS: Prospect Park Lake displays an interactive exhibit. Learn about the park's waterways. Noon to 5 p.m. Audubon for Kids, Prospect Park. (718) 287-3400. Free.

TREES IN PROSPECT PARK: Urban Park Rangers explore the arboreal diversity of the park. 1 p.m. Meet at the Boathouse, Prospect Park. (718) 421-2021. Free.

WILLIAMSBURG TOUR: Brooklyn Historical Society and historian Francis Morrone takes a tour of this diverse neighborhood. \$15, \$10 members, \$12 students and seniors, \$5 children, 2 p.m. Meet at corner of Broadway and Marcy Avenue. (718) 222-4111, ext. 37.

BRIDGE AT TWILIGHT: Big Onion Tours takes a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. Learn about the history, architecture and people of this area. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, 5 p.m. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street. (212) 459-1060.

PERFORMANCES

THESES: Kings County Shakespeare Co. presents a performance of "Love Am'd, Aphra Ben and Her Pen," 7 p.m. Not recommended for children under 12. Also, "The Rover," a naughty comedy, 8 p.m. St. Francis College, 360 Manhattan St. (718) 398-0546.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Hal Williams' Leonard Cohen Project featuring Nick Cave, Laurie Anderson, Rikis Williams, Kate and Anna McGarrigle, Martha Wimbush, Mark Ribot and others, 7:30 p.m. Prospect Park Bandshell, enter at North Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 855-7882. Free.

BARBERSHOP: All Mount chamber music, 5:35 to 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

SUMMER CONCERT: Kings County Community College presents a musical program of international favorites. Bring your own chairs, 8 p.m. Rain-Boo Bandshell, 2001 Oriental Blvd. (718) 368-5669. Free.

'Runner' canceled

BAMcinematek has cancelled all scheduled screenings of "The Fast Runner" due to the unavailability of a print of that film. Instead, on Friday, June 27, BAM will screen Tsai Ming-liang's "What Time Is It There?" at 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

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bedtime story

New approach to 'The Cherry Orchard' bears sleep-inducing fruit at Impact Theater

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

In his notes to "The Cherry Orchard," director Michael Raimondi writes, "The Cherry Orchard is a comedy!" Unfortunately, Chekhov has been stigmatized as a classic writer, of classic plays, derived from the Moscow Art Theatre and the Stanislavski system of acting, leaving no room for his original intention. Chekhov wanted his plays to be almost vaudeville in style.

To correct this error, Raimondi says he has attempted to "meld some of Stanislavski's ideas of naturalistic acting with an impressionistic, post-modern design, while accentuating the joy and comedy of the play."

Indeed, the production now at The Impact Theater is acted in a naturalistic style that would warm Stanislavski's Russian heart, and the stage, with its billowing curtains that conceal then reveal the actors, does have an impressionistic air about it. But as for comedy — this production proceeded at such a glacial pace that, while following the plodding action, one is more likely to shed tears of frustration than burst into laughter.

Of course, one of the hallmarks of a Chekhov play is that nothing ever happens. As is often the case in real life, the inhabitants of Chekhov's world are too immobilized by their own anxiety and inertia to effect any change that might free them from the chains of their stifling existence.

In "The Cherry Orchard," Lyubov (Deborah Paulter) is about to sell her beloved orchard even in the face of financial ruin. Her daughters, Varya (Alexandra Etzel) and Anya (Emily James) are unable to find appropriate mates. And Lyubov's brother, Gayev (David Perez), spends his time making



Paulter for effect: Patrick Douglas, Tricia Napor and Daniel Stowell in a scene from "The Cherry Orchard," directed by Michael Raimondi.

rambling speeches no one is interested in hearing.

Raimondi seems to believe the way to portray Chekhov's languid and languishing characters is by having every statement followed by 10 minutes of silence before the next speaker gathers enough energy to respond, or (in technical Chekhovian style) to say something

THEATER

"The Cherry Orchard" plays through June 28, Wednesday through Friday at 8 pm, and Saturday at 3 pm and 8 pm at The Impact Theater, 190 Underhill Ave., between Sterling Place and St. Johns Place. Tickets are \$15, \$12 students. For reservations, call (718) 390-7163.

totally irrelevant. On stage, there's one word for this: boring!

Life may be uneventful for the characters in "The Cherry Orchard." But the challenge for any director of this

play is to make this lack of activity interesting to the audience. The way to make an audience appreciate the stilted world of this provincial Russian town is not by putting everyone to sleep.

That's not to say there aren't some talented actors in "The Cherry Orchard." But either they drown in the general lethargy of the production, or their energy is diffused by the poor performances of other actors.

Paulter's fey and obnoxious Lyubov is like a latter-day Gracie Allen, delivering cheerful non-sequiturs and illogical conclusions with careless abandon. Unfortunately, David Perez is no George Burns. He mumbles and stumbles over his lines and has such an obvious Hispanic accent, one cannot help but wonder when the Conquistadors invaded Russia.

When Tim Lewis enters as Lopakhin, a shrewd businessman who begs Lyubov to chop down the orchard and build houses on the land, he injects enough excitement into the play to awaken the audience, but not the other actors, who continue sleepwalking through the play.

Raimondi is right-on when he compares "The Cherry Orchard" to vaudeville. Chekhov's quick succession of scenes, his incongruities and his exaltation of the ridiculous are all close cousins of vaudeville. But the analogy only goes so far.

Vaudeville gave birth to comics like George Jessel, Milton Berle and Jack Benny, who were all celebrated for their verbal and visual wit and their split-second timing. They certainly did not meditate over every word. They were ridiculous and they revelled in their own absurdity.

Chekhov's characters take themselves very seriously. They cry. They threaten suicide. Their pain is real. Unlike the pranksters in vaudeville, they are people whose actions have consequences. They are turned out of their beloved homes. They lose their fortunes. They are tricked by lovers.

Writing in pre-revolutionary Russia, Anton Chekhov was able to touch on some eternal truths: we are born, we die and in between those two events, fate treats us like a tiny ship in a hurricane. There's the drama that makes us both ridiculous and cry.

This production just makes us sleep.

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ROCK BALLET: Insight Club "Rock-ology" features classic rock and ballet. \$15, \$10 seniors and students. 5 pm, Lutheran Church, 7420 Fourth Ave. (718) 853-4805.

THELMA HILL: presents "Urban Dandelions," works by new and emerging dance companies. \$15, \$12 students and seniors. 8 pm, Triangle Theater, Long Island University, Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue. (718) 975-9710.

THEATER: The Impact Theater presents "The Cherry Orchard" by Anton Chekhov. \$15, \$12 students and seniors. 8 pm, Underhill Ave. (718) 390-7163.

PLAY: Charlie Pineapple Theater Co. presents Sam Shepard's "True West." \$9, 8 pm. 208 North Eighth St. (718) 907-0737.

COMEDY: Flying Fig Theater presents "The Woman Who Keeps a Secret." \$15, 8 pm. ART NY South Oxford Square, 138 South Oxford St. (212) 868-4444.

LUCK: Music with Grand Mal 8 pm. Call Also, all-night electronic dance party at 11 pm. \$10, 256 Grand St. (718) 599-1000.

FLOATING CINEMA: Dance Films Association hosts "Punkin', The Floating Cinema." Live music and dancing begins at 8:30 pm. Screening of dance films at 9:15 pm. Wolfman Rink, Prospect Park. (212) 727-0764. Free.

LOW BAR: Music with Uloop and Qee. No cover. 9 pm to 2 am. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.

COMEDY NIGHT: Brooklyn Brew-Ha hosted by Joe DeVito. \$5 plus two-drink minimum. 9:30 pm. East End Ensemble, 275 Smith St. (718) 624-8978.

TWO BOOTS: Gene Ambutter plays the blues. No cover. 10 pm to midnight. 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

CHILDREN: IMPROV SHOW: Waterbury Bridge Theater and Prospect Park Alliance present "The Teddy Bearbaiters," an improvised show aimed to entertain and include the audience. 11 am, Harmony Playground, Prospect Park. (718) 965-6743. Free.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cinderella." \$6, 37 adults. 12:30 and 2:30 pm. 338 South Ave. (718) 965-5991.

IMAGINATION PLAYGROUND: Kids are invited enjoy traditional Puerto Rican folk music. 2:30 to 3:30 pm, Prospect Park. (718) 965-8943. Free.

PET ADOPTION: The ASPCA takes in pet adoption service into New York's communities. Today, pets can be adopted at Fleet Bank, 205 Montague St.

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To list your event in **GO**, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 24 Court St., Ste. 506, Brooklyn, NY 11242; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

Brooklyn Heights. Other locations. See www.aspc.org.

HEALTH TALK: Seminar on handling depression entitled "Biblical Principles for Handling Depression and Despair." \$15, 9 am to 11 am, Immanuel Church, 75 Hicks St. (718) 624-4743.

FLEA MARKET: at Lefferts Park Baptist Church. 10 am to 3 pm, 324 14th Ave. (718) 621-5458. Underhill Ave. (718) 390-7163.

YOU CAN DO IT TOO: Brooklyn Public Library, Business branch, hosts an event for entrepreneurs. Showcase for organizations that provide support services at little or no cost to entrepreneurs and business owners. 10 am to 1 pm, Registration necessary. 280 Cadogan Plaza West. (718) 623-1000. Free.

SIDEWALK SALE: at Sunset Plaza. \$12, \$10 students and seniors. 1 pm. Meet at main entrance, Fifth Avenue and 26th Street. (212) 439-1090.

HOMAGE TO THE CRAB: Salt Marsh Nature Center observes the homestead crab mating ritual. Learn about the earth's oldest living fossils. 7 pm, 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-0221. Free.

FESTIVAL CARIBBEAN: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, hosts an afternoon of Caribbean music, drama, dance, song and readings. 1 to 4 pm, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-7100. Free.

FILM SERIES: Cone Island Museum hosts a series of films, concludes its seventh season of family entertainment about the 1914 Leigh Valley Railroad. Barge. Shows unusual acts, (718) 372-5159.

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OUTDOORS AND TOURS
FULTON ART FAIR: 45th annual event features live art, fine crafts, comedy, poetry and dance. Noon to dusk, Fulton Street, between Broadway and Bedford-Stuyvesant. (718) 707-1457.

HISTORIC ADVENTURE: Diana Stuart, The Marlowe Cover Lady, leads a tour of Park Slope. \$20, 1 pm. Meet in front of the Central Library at Grand Army Plaza, between Prospect Park West and Flatbush Avenue. (212) 685-6150.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY: Big Onion tours takes a visit to the Victorian "City of the Dead." \$12, \$10 students and seniors. 1 pm. Meet at main entrance, Fifth Avenue and 26th Street. (212) 439-1090.

PERFORMANCES
CIRCUS SUNDAYS: Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge concludes its seventh season of family entertainment about the 1914 Leigh Valley Railroad. Barge. Shows unusual acts, (718) 372-5159.

OTHER
PRUNING ROSES: Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a talk on how to grow roses and keep them healthy. 2:30, \$19, 3 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 632-7220.

ODO SUNDAY: Micro Museum offers guided tours of interactive and media installations by William and Kathleen Luczak. \$5, 3 to 6 pm. 123 Smith St. (718) 797-5116.

BROOKLYN CYCLOES: Team plays NJ Cardinals. 5 pm. Call for ticket information. Surf Avenue between 17th and 19th streets. (718) 449-8497.

OCULARS FILM: Galapagos presents Open Zone, a quarterly forum for new works by local film and video artists. 6 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

Mon, June 30
LECTURE SERIES: "Moshav Revisted." "Tongue." Will We Listen to Play When We Listen Comes?" 8 pm, Congregation B'nai Avraham, 117 Berenson St. (718) 596-4840. Free.

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PATIENT SEMINAR: SUNY Downstate offers a talk on epilepsy. 6 to 7:30 pm. 395 Lenox Road. Registration required. (718) 270-6316. Free.

OCULARS FILM: Galapagos presents "Portrait of a Gekko," a documentary. \$5, 7 pm. Also, Continued on next page...

OPERA: Vocal Opera Repertory Musical Society's "Doménico, or el Ciego." \$20, 4 pm. 191 Court St. (212) 539-2696.

CONCERT: Our Lady of Victory RC Church presents "An Evening of Elegance with Duke Ellington." The 15-piece Ray Abrams Big Band performs Duke's classic jazz standards. \$30, 4 to 7 pm. 583 Throop Ave. (718) 574-5772.

RECTORIAL: Brooklyn Conservatory of Music presents British violinist Suzanne Stanfield. \$15, \$12 students and seniors. 7:30 pm. 65 Seventh Ave. (718) 632-0111.

ROCK BALLET: at Lutheran Church. 3 pm. See Sat.

COMEDY: Flying Fig Theater presents "The Woman Who Keeps a Secret." 7 pm. See Sat.

THELMA HILL: "Urban Dandelions," works by new and emerging dance companies. 8 pm. See Sat.

CHILDREN
FAMILY ART PROJECT: Brooklyn Museum of Art hosts a drawing and recicle-making workshop. "Egypt Reborn." \$6, \$3 students and seniors. Free for children under 12 and members. 11 am to 4 pm. 1000 East-end Parkway. (718) 638-7220.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cinderella." 12:30 and 2:30 pm. See Sat.

PRUNING ROSES: Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a talk on how to grow roses and keep them healthy. 2:30, \$19, 3 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 632-7220.

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Hot seats

'Punch-Drunk' screening and Q&A at BAM; Xaverian toasts Regis at DiMaggio fundraiser

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

Filmmaker **Paul Thomas Anderson** and actor **Philip Seymour Hoffman** arrived at the Brooklyn Academy of Music Monday night to have a lively, expletive-peppered chat with a sold-out audience about Anderson's 2002 film "Punch-Drunk Love."

The film, which stars **Adam Sandler** and **Emily Watson** in an unlikely romance, features Hoffman in the villainous role of Dean Trumbell, a mattress salesman cum shakedown guy who masterminds a plot to blackmail Sandler after his character calls a phone sex line.

"I was working from a place of anger," Anderson said wryly about writing the script. "I was not seeing anything good in romance movies. I said, 'I'll f--- show you how it's done.'" Anderson won Best Director at the Cannes Film Fest for his black comedy.

Among the members of their posse in attendance at the Q&A was "Saturday



Night Live" cast member **Maya Rudolph**, a scream when impersonating Donatella Versace or the angst-filled teen Megan on "Wake Up Wakefield." (Anderson's film also features a cameo by **Robert Smigel**, of SNL's "TV Funhouse" cartoons and "Triumph the Insult Comic Dog" fame, in the role of Sandler's brother-in-law.)

Anderson has cast Hoffman in all of his feature-length films to date: "Magnolia" (1999), "Boogie Nights" (1997) and

"Hard Eight" (1997). Anderson said he first noticed Hoffman and wanted to work with him when he saw the actor in 1992's "Scent of a Woman." The admiration appears to be mutual, as Hoffman said he wanted to know more about Anderson after seeing his 1993 short film, "Cigarettes and Coffee," at Sundance.

"We're more friends than anything," said Hoffman. "As much as I hate it, there's a knowledge of me [Anderson] put there [in the role of Dean]."

Both Hoffman and Anderson agreed that the film was larger than life, more along the lines of a fairytale — albeit a comical Grimms fairytale.

"Sandler's character's got to face his dark side, and I'm that," said Hoffman. "I'm more of a mythical character. I'm part of him. I understood that I stand for something. If you confront me, I go away. It's a powerful moment."

Anderson said he had also been going to work with Sandler, although he described himself as "not a big 'Waterboy' fan."

Other inside scoops: after Sandler punches up a restaurant bathroom, his bloody knuckles read "L-O-V-E."

"It was for continuity, so the cuts would look the same in every shot," explained Anderson. "Then I realized it was in 'Night of the Hunter' and 'Do the Right Thing.' I hoped it was cool, but in case it was corny, we make it go by really fast."

The "Punch-Drunk Love" DVD, which includes two deleted scenes, arrives in stores this week.

Doctors are in

Television host extraordinaire **Regis Philbin** ("Who Wants to Be a Million-



aire") and "Live with Regis and Kelly") was honored at the annual Joe DiMaggio Award Dinner on June 10 at the Marriott Marquis in Manhattan.

The dinner raised \$400,000 for Xaverian High School's Joe DiMaggio Scholarship Fund and the Bay Ridge school's Reach Education Achievement (REACH) program for college-bound students with learning disabilities.

Philbin, accompanied by his wife, **Joy Philbin**, marveled at the number of doctors, some of them his own, on the dais and their support for Xaverian.

"Dr. **Andrew Weiland** is my elbow man," Philbin told GO Brooklyn, gesturing to the professor of orthopedics and plastic surgery at New York Presbyterian Hospital. "I'm so impressed."

Philbin recalled growing up in the Bronx and bonding with his father over baseball.

"For a nickel, you could take the train," said Philbin. "The Yankees came out of the dugout and my father said, 'Watch DiMaggio.' It was the most graceful thing you ever saw... [DiMaggio] had a big influence on my life and how he handled his success. He had a lot of class."

Baseball Hall of Famer **Tommy Lasorda**, former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, presented a crystal baseball bat

to Philbin along with a kiss on the cheek. The garrulous Lasorda also offered the crowd a stand-up routine of surprisingly well received jokes poking fun at all things Catholic.

The audience was happy to have **Jim Ryan**, anchor of FOX-5's "Good Day New York," back as master of ceremonies.

Ryan apologized for missing last year's event due to a heart ailment. He introduced his cardiologist, **Dr. Jeffrey Borer**, co-chairman of the gala, and his heart surgeon, **Dr. Wayne Isom**, of Weill Cornell Medical Center, who he said, made him "an official member of the zipper club."

Among the 700 gala-goers were Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher **Ralph Branca**, **Steve Harrison**, class of '66, and chairman of Community Board 10 in Bay Ridge, who is also a Xaverian trustee; artist **Igor Babalov** who presented Philbin with a portrait he painted of him (and the Brooklyn Bridge); podiatrist-to-the-stars **Rock Positano** (Class of '76); state **Sen. Marty Golden**; Rabbi **Joseph Potasnik**; Daily News columnist **Bill Gallo**; Fire Commissioner **Nicholas Scoppetta**; restaurateur **Angelo Vivolo**; "French Connection" inspiration **Sonny Grosso**; **Roy Scheider**'s part was based on him; Brooklyn's own **Tony Lo Bianco** ("The French Con-

nection," "The Seven-Up's"; **Rosanne Colletti** of WNBC-TV news; and U.S. Sen. **Charles Schumer**.

The late Yankee Clipper was introduced to the all-boys Catholic high school by Positano, who met DiMaggio in 1989 when the retired baseball great sought medical attention for his chronic heel ailment. Positano was again chairman of this year's fourth annual event, and told the crowd that Philbin "did have pretty feet."

Morris Engelberg, executor of the Joe DiMaggio estate, kept the sports hero's legacy alive by recalling his own personal anecdotes.

"His only love was Marilyn [Monroe], and his only weakness was children," said Engelberg. "I knew him for 16 years, and I held him in my arms when he died." Engelberg also shared with the mostly male audience the intimate detail that the Yankee Clipper held both of his sons for their circumcisions.

He also gave a cancelled check to Philbin, pointing out DiMaggio's signature on it.

Summer soiree

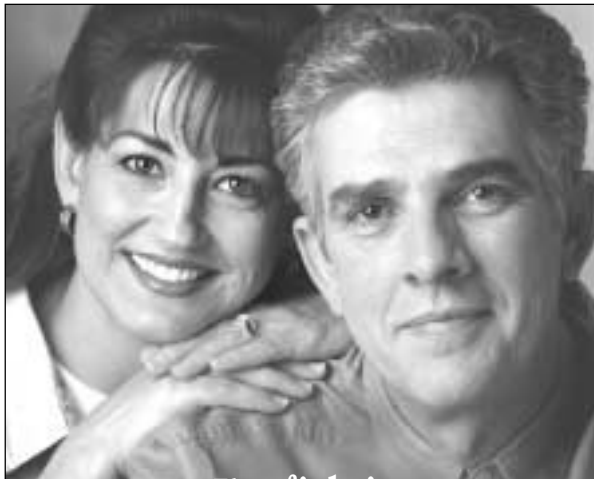
Co-chairs **Emma Bloomberg** and Vogue Fashion Editor **Sally Singer** are inviting 20- and 30-somethings to Summer Soiree, a Junior League benefit for the Campaign for Prospect Park 2001-2005, which has the ambitious goal of trying to raise \$116 million to support all of the park's programs and projects and maintenance needs over five years.

The Soiree, to be held at the park's boathouse on the June 24, will offer young park enthusiasts an opportunity to mix and mingle, dance to the tunes of DJs from Williamsburg's Southpaw nightclub on the patio overlooking the Lullwater, enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and enjoy leisurely rides on the canopied electric boat, The Independence.

Tickets are \$35 and up. For information call Amanda Eisen at (718) 965-7712 or Jessie Betts at (718) 965-7712.



"Punch-Drunk" pals: Filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson and actor Philip Seymour Hoffman catch some fresh air before answering audience questions at the Brooklyn Academy of Music Monday night.



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COHEN...

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a surprise and wanting the artists to have the chance rehearse their chosen Cohen song first.

"Sometimes they work and sometimes not," said Willner. Cave performed as part of Arts at St. Ann's tribute to Harry Smith, a collector of original recordings of American folk music, in November 2000, another project curated by Willner.

"He's a genius! He's brilliant!" St. Ann's artistic director Susan Feldman said of Willner. "His love of music is matched only by his knowledge of pop music of the last 50 years."

"He can draw on musicians from so many different genres

— he knows them all," said Feldman. "They know Hal projects."

"[Willner's] very real. He's a child of the '60s, when music was an important means of expression. He hasn't sold out."

Feldman recalled that the massive Smith tribute took place over two days, four hours each night, and also brought together Weinwright, the McGarrigles and Sonic Youth.

Willner told GO Brooklyn that he applied that same thorough approach to the Cohen tribute.

"I went through all of Leonard's songs," Willner said. "I counted 101 of them and narrowed it down to 37,

then down to 30 — a mixture of well-known and obscure and parts of each of his records or periods. I sent the list with suggestions to all the artists and got it back. Some [musician-song pairings]

MUSIC

"Came So Far For Beauty: An Evening of Songs by Leonard Cohen Under the Stars" will take place Saturday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m., at Celebrate Brooklyn in the Prospect Park Bandshell. Enter the park at North Street and Prospect Park West. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$5. For more information, call (718) 855-7882, ext. 45, or visit the Web site at www.brooklyn.org/celebrate. Rain or shine.

might seem obvious, and sometimes an artist would like something that you wouldn't expect."

The artists will rehearse just two nights before putting on the show at the Prospect Park

Bandshell. "I couldn't think of a better body of work to do this," said Willner, a "huge fan" of Cohen, who also arranges the sketch music and adaptations for "Saturday Night Live" and was formerly the music producer for NBC's "Night Music."

"I'm looking to put on something that's new to hear," he said. "I come from the late-'60s and early '70s, fortunately, and heard the early FM radio stations that changed genres every two songs. I love those kinds of nights and those kinds of records."

"There will be a lot of working together and pairing off, duets playing behind," Willner said, adding, "They're just vehicles to put together all of these artists you wouldn't ever see together otherwise."

WHERE TO GO...

Continued from previous page...
burlesque at 9:30 p.m. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

TUES, JULY 1

BAMCINEMATEK: "Three for Audrey," a series featuring the films of Audrey Hepburn. Today: "The Children's Hour" (1961). 4:30, 6:30 and 9:10 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Release party for "The Land Grant College Review," a literary journal. \$12, 6:30 p.m. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 599-1000.

TENNIS PROGRAM: Prospect Park Tennis Center offers beginner tennis lessons for youths ages 6 to 16. Equipment provided. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon. Coney Island Avenue and Parkside Avenue. Register on site. (718) 699-4200.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Author Stephen Hall reads from his book, "Merchants of Immortality," 7:30 p.m. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 632-0666.

LUXE: Music with Stevie Nicks. No cover. 11 p.m. 256 Grand St. (718) 599-1000.

EXHIBIT: Opening of "My Brooklyn," exhibit of photography and essays on what makes Brooklyn special. Through Sept. 20. Brooklyn Public Library. Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

WEDS, JULY 2

MOVIE CLUB: St. Ann and the Holy Trinity's Watch Club presents "The Producers" (1968). 12 to 2 p.m. 227 Smith St. (718) 855-7392. Free.

HALCYON CAFE: Hot and boisterous Wednesday. Hot music with hot lyrics. No cover. 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. 227 Smith St. (718) 855-7392.

BROOKLYN CYCLES: Team plays Staten Island Yankees. 7 p.m. Call for ticket information.

LOW BAR: Darius Voodoon Cabaret perform an acoustic set. Also, burlesque dancers, jazz DJ and others. No cover. 9 p.m. to midnight. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1000.

SOUTH PAW: Radio Mundial hosts a party for the release of its CD of Afro-Latin music. \$8. 10 p.m. 125 Fifth Ave. (866) 789-1884.

THURS, JULY 3

R&B FEST: BAM hosts a series of outdoor musical events. Today: Steel Pulse plays Jamaican folk music. Noon to 2 p.m. Metro-

tech Commons, corner of Flatbush and Myrtle avenues. (718) 636-4129. Free.

WALKING TOUR: Big Onion Walking Tours takes a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. \$12, \$10 students and seniors. 1 p.m. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1000.

BAMCINEMATEK: "Three for Audrey," a series featuring the films of Audrey Hepburn. Today: "Wait Until Dark" (1967). \$10, 4:30, 6:30 and 9:10 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

PEACE VIGIL: International leaf-letting by a variety of groups. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Flatbush and Fulton. (718) 636-2022.

BROOKLYN CYCLES: Team plays Aberdeen Iron Birds. 7 p.m. Call for ticket information.

BARBEMUSIC: chamber music program of Jarrett, Gerhwin and Copland. \$35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 449-8497.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. 8 p.m. Prospect Park Bandshell, enter at North Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 855-7882. Free.

LUXE: Goth music with Terrorcore Cabaret. 8 p.m. Call for ticket info. 256 Grand St. (718) 599-1000.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Dankfunk presents Arts and Sciences #6, acid jazz music. \$5, 9 p.m. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

HALCYON CAFE: THC Residents. Nights, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. No cover. 227 Smith St. (718) 846-9849.

FRI, JULY 4

Independence Day

FIREWORKS: The Macy's Independence Day Fireworks Spectacular will begin at 9 p.m. in two locations: The East River (off Manhattan's 34th Street and just below South Street Seaport) and the Flatlands (off the Flatlands Heights promenade, the uplands of the piers, Fulton Landing and Empire Fulton Ferry State Park). (212) 495-5555. Free.

BROOKLYN CYCLES: Team plays Aberdeen Iron Birds. 6 p.m. Call for ticket information.

BARBEMUSIC: chamber music program of Jarrett, Gerhwin and Copland. \$35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 449-8497.

AQUA NIGHTS: NY Aquarium hosts an evening music series. Tonight is a 1950s theme. 8 p.m. evening with The Capris and Randy and the Four Freshmen. \$8 children and seniors, 7.45 p.m. Surf Avenue at Vauxhall. (718) 624-2083.

ROOFTOP FILMS: Summer series of movies and live music. 8 p.m. and after films. 9 p.m. Office Ops. 57 Thames St. (718) 417-2662. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Sprinkle Games, The Kuts Out and \$5. 9 p.m. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.